

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Maine Women's Publications - All

Publications

5-1-1998

Feminist Times April - May 1998

Feminist Times Editorial Board

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all

Part of the [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#)
Digital Commons

Network
Repository Citation

Editorial Board, Feminist Times, "Feminist Times April - May 1998" (1998). *Maine Women's Publications - All*. 839.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/maine_women_pubs_all/839

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Women's Publications - All by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

FEMINIST TIMES

A monthly statewide journal of news and issues

April - May 1998

◆◆◆

Vol. 4, Issue 2

309 HIGH ST., BELFAST, ME 04915

\$15 per year

FROM The MAINE LEGISLATURE

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, 1998 marks the 150th anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement in the United States, a courageous civil rights movement that began at the first Women's Rights Convention in 1849 in Seneca Falls, New York, and that has changed this nation and the hopes of its women and girls irrevocably, and

WHEREAS, the Women's Rights Movement has had a profound impact on all aspects of American life and has offered new and well-deserved opportunities for women in all endeavors, including medicine, commerce, athletics, business, religion, the arts, exploration and politics; and

WHEREAS, the girls and boys of today lead richer lives as a direct result of the Women's Rights Movement, yet they have scant opportunity to know the heroes and lessons of this vital movement through the textbooks in most classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the 21st century will find an ever-increasing need for women and men to share in the fundamental responsibilities for our nation and the resulting rewards of full participation in society; and

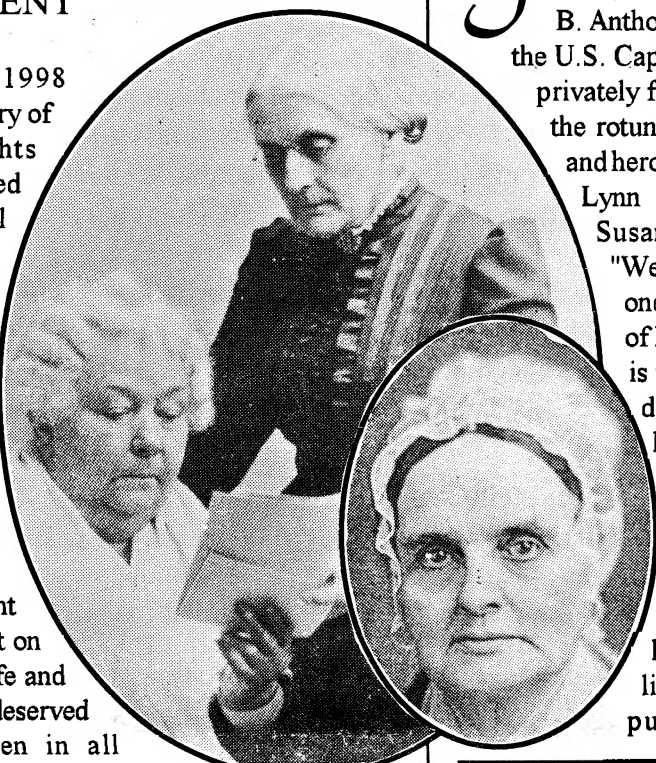
WHEREAS, there still remain substantial barriers to the full equality of America's women before our freedom as a nation can be called complete; and

WHEREAS, this month of March 1998 is National Women's History Month, celebrated with the theme "Living the Legacy"; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1998, we recognize Maine girls, our future leaders, who are learning about political participation through the Second Annual Girls' Day at the State House, sponsored by the Women's Development Institute; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Eighteenth Legislature, now assembled in the Second Regular Session, take this occasion to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Movement under the national theme "Living the Legacy: Women's Rights Movement 1848-1998" and call on educators, government officials, businesses and all citizens to mark this year of celebration with appropriate activities to remember with gratitude those who have contributed to equality, fairness, justice and freedom in our State and in our Nation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Angus S. King, Jr., Governor of Maine, to the Maine Human Rights Commission and to each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.



Where the Women Are

For 75 years the statue honoring Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony languished in the basement of the U.S. Capitol building. Finally, in 1996, a privately funded effort moved the statue to the rotunda among our nation's founders and heroes. At the rededication ceremony

Lynn Sherr, biographer of Susan B. Anthony said,

"We're here today so no one forgets the struggle of how we got here. This is the first monument ... depicting women in history ... to crash through the ceiling of this monument to democracy."

If Rep. Nancy

Johnson, R-Conn., succeeds in her campaign, it will be a short-lived remembrance. Unless the public demands otherwise,

congressional authorization will be rescinded at the end of June, and the statue will be returned to the basement.

Why is it important that the statue of three of America's leading women be in the rotunda of the Capitol building? Because, as Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, said in her

rededication speech, the rotunda is "the epicenter ... of our American democracy. It matters that Americans place importance on the participation of women in the greatest

"While Lady Liberty has stood proudly atop the dome of the United States Capitol, the ladies who fought to make that liberty real for women have languished in the basement."

-- Olympia Snowe

democracy the world has ever seen." When Adelaide Johnson sculpted the

(Continued on Page 4.)

The US Women's Hockey team, gold medal winners at the winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, were described in *Time* magazine as courageous and aggressive on the rink with a "girl-next-door" charm off the ice; educated, smart and good-natured.

"When we get on the bus we talk about boys, makeup, girl things," says team captain Cammi Granato. "We are not a bunch of feminists."

'If Men Wore Bras'

Women and Technology

by Lucy G. Wendell-Thorpe

Women learn early to abdicate our power in the technological realm," said Judith McGaw in a recent lecture, *If men wore bras -- what women could teach us about technology*, at the University of New England's Westbrook College Campus. "Beginning in adolescence we start performing less well in technology-related subjects."

McGaw hopes to develop ways to involve more girls and women in technological fields by studying the technology with which women interact, but don't take seriously, such as kitchens, laundries, bathrooms and apparel such as bras. As a result of her research, she's discovered women do indeed possess an "enormous amount of technological knowledge." She thinks it is important "to recognize the technological skills women already possess and encourage their use." She then added, "Women may be avoiding technological careers not because we know too little about technology but because we know too much." She would like women to start thinking about technological change because it is intertwined with power relationships in today's



world. Technology has an influence on what children learn, whether certain kinds of jobs are available

(Continued on Page 5)

FEMINIST TIMES

Managing Editor... Jan Anderson
 Assistant Editor... Alice Pratt
 Ad Sales... Donna Light

Editorial Board

Clara Barton Jane Austen
 Hannah More Isak Dinesen
 Mary Wallstonecraft George Sand
 Marie Curie Susan B. Anthony
 Sojourner Truth Abigail Adams
 Elizabeth C. Stanton Jezebel

Contents

What's Funny Now?..	3
Mabel Wadsworth...	4
Revisiting Sexual Harrassment..	5
If not Affirmative Action...	6
Breastfeeding in Line of Fire...	6
Women in Business...	7
Ethical Investing ...	8
Women in the Arts...	9
Women Web Sites...	10
Book Review, poetry...	11
Calendar...	13
Women... in the World...	14
Legislative Update...	15
Network...	15
In Other Words...	16

**Call us with your
 story idea: 338-1429**

FEMINIST TIMES assumes no financial responsibility for failure to publish an advertisement, incorrect placement, or typographic errors. Advertisers are solely responsible for the content of their advertising and claims and offers contained in their advertising.

FEMINIST TIMES reserves the right to refuse any advertising for any reason, any time.

To advertise contact:
 Feminist Times
 309 High St.
 Belfast, ME 04915
 338-1429 or 342-4761
 FAX 338-9895

Submission Guidelines:
 Letters to the editor are welcome.
 For other submissions, please request guidelines and enclose an SASE.

Copyright 1995 by *Feminist Times*.
 Mailing Address:
 309 High St.
 Belfast, ME 04915
 e-mail: JDANDERS@acadia.net

Statement of Purpose

FEMINIST TIMES was created to give attention to the feminist perspective on issues, asking questions that have not been asked; to shine a spotlight on women of achievement in business, politics, education and the arts; and is committed to providing a forum for women to express their view on local and world events -- a viewpoint that is often ignored, overlooked or misconstrued in the mainstream media. Our goal is to ask questions and inspire a dialogue on a diverse range of issues. We hope to challenge our readers to consider new points of view, and we would like to uphold the ideals of the feminist movement -- to reclaim and honor the title "feminist" for women.

Editorial

It's hard not to be overwhelmed by the recent shootings on a playground in Arkansas. Four girls and a teacher were killed, lured outside by a false fire alarm. The killers were two young boys, Mitchell and Andrew, ages 13 and 11, who had stolen rifles, hand guns, ammunition and a family van from the grandfather of one of the boys; then hid in the woods above the playground.

There has been speculation about what could have pushed two young boys to become murderers of their classmates; fantasies and hyperbole about southern violence, gun ownership and rites of passage; calls for gun control legislation; analyses by child psychologists and family therapists; and a great hue and cry for retribution and punishment. No prison term is too long for those who committed this heinous act. The one thing these writers and speakers all have in common is that they are projecting an adult understanding and comprehension of the world onto children.

In a child's world there is much play-acting and pretending. The two boys who shot their classmates were children, exposed over their lifetime to countless hours of a pretend world on television and in movies heavy with pretend violence and vengeance. In a pretend world, the children would have gotten up and lived again. Nothing pushed these children to become murderers because they did not see themselves as murderers. In this all-too-real world, when children have access to real guns instead of play guns, the consequences are real. Those four girls and their teacher will never get up and rejoin their class; the two boys will never rejoin a normal world of childhood and adolescence.

In my reading of the news, it seems apparent to me that those with the most violent reaction to boys murdering their classmates and their teacher were men, who regretted that the boys would only be held in prison until they were 21 because they could not be tried as adults. Women, on the other hand, seem to have suspended judgment on these boys, looking for a way to understand such a catastrophic event, and to forgive. We know that the punishment devised for these children is yet more violence.

We live in a world of instantaneous news coverage and an angry and grieving public wants explanations, understanding and healing to be just as instantaneous. No sooner were the images and headlines broadcast to the public than the public demanded action, assigning blame and justification, looking for a public grieving and healing. It doesn't happen that way. Long after the media spotlight is over the mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters and grandparents, classmates, teachers and police officers, ambulance attendants, emergency room personnel, ministers and neighbors will struggle with anger, sorrow and bewilderment.

There's a lot to celebrate about *Feminist Times*. During our first three years we created a dynamic, thought-provoking newspaper. We posed rarely asked questions about issues and events of particular concern to women.

The *Feminist Times* was the first to break the news about the midwife charged with reckless endangerment; the only media to investigate conditions for women in prison; the only media to consistently give feminist/progressive women space to speak about food safety, the environment, domestic violence, equal rights and opportunities, war and peace, and courageous women in history; the only media to continuously feature the triumphs of women artists, performers, politicians, workers and mothers as well as our tragedies.

The *Feminist Times* is the only media that bases its existence on the belief that women have something special to say about the major news stories facing us today. We provide the opportunity for women to speak about important issues and to be respected for their experience and opinions.

Can a feminist/progressive/liberal monthly journal survive and even thrive in Maine? Yes, if business and professional women and men and their organizations consciously determine to support it with underwriting or advertising dollars.

There are many organizations in Maine committed to women's issues, including the National Organization for Women, Maine Women's Lobby, Maine Women's Fund, Women Unlimited, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, American Association of University Women, Maine 9 to 5 and many others. Our statement of purpose overlaps the mission statement of many of these groups. We can and should be used by these groups to further their cause and ours; we are a resource that is not adequately used. Instead of each organization using important funds to print and distribute their own newsletter, *Feminist Times* can be the vehicle to disseminate information about each organization far beyond their own membership; an important networking vehicle.

We are at a point where we need to take stock of the support *Feminist Times* is receiving from women and women's organizations and determine how best to increase the advertising support. Until we have successfully marketed *Feminist Times* to women and the organizations that promote women's equity, we will not be able to continue publishing.

Don't Miss an Issue!

Send \$15 for one year or
 \$25 for two years

to: Feminist Times
 309 High St.
 Belfast, ME 04915

What's Funny Now?

by Lorraine Brown

WHAT'S A GIRL TO THINK?

Recent headlines have lured me away from my riveting research and in-depth reportage on the startling personal, physical and cultural effects of menopause.

I hardly ever arise early enough on Sunday morning to view *Face the Nation*, but a few weeks ago I was lucky enough to catch Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe decrying the fact that "the feminists" had not come out against Bill Clinton. "Uh oh," I thought with a shiver, "the feminists... that must mean me." It's only a very mad maid who can stand to be identified as a feminist these days.

But, the gauntlet has been tossed, and pride dictates that someone snatch it up. So, here's how one feminist really feels about the mess that our president has gotten himself into.

First of all, I wholeheartedly wish that I could believe that all this

fuss really is about how women are being treated by men in power. I wish that I could believe that Kenneth Starr is going after Bill Clinton with the zest of a Salem prosecutor because he is personally outraged that women are being sexually harassed by Washington's main man. I wish that I could believe that the Republican party, the right wing propaganda machine and the billionaire boy conservatives who are backing this sordid effort really are doing it because they care deeply and sincerely about women's rights. I even wish that Sen. Snowe and Sen. Collins were concerned about what "the feminists" think about this, or any other issue, concerning women's rights. But, unfortunately, this feminist along with most of the rest of the country, if polls are anything to go by, sadly recognizes a right-wing hatchet job when she sees one.

In regard to the difference in

how women are personally treated by right- or left-wing boys in power, if memory serves me correctly, there is no difference. In his public life, Bill Clinton has tepidly supported an agenda that is only marginally destructive to poor women and single parents. In his private life he apparently behaves like a goat in heat. But I fear to know what distasteful things Newt, Trent or Arlen are up to in their private sex lives. Public agendas scream out their hearty distaste for low-income people and those of the opposite gender. Call me a sentimental fool, but I tend to vote for those who, at least, act as if they're on my side. So, if I have to choose, it'll be Bill. But you won't catch me leaping in triumphant delight.

Since this can of unpleasant worms has been opened, one of the more unsavory aspects of the whole sorry business is that I have been forced to conjure up Kenneth Starr's sex life. When

I catch a glimpse of his smug features on my TV, I see him "sans" his buttoned-down three-piece suit. He springs merrily from my screen in garter belt, sharp stiletto heels, sporting a blonde Marilyn wig, net nylons, shiny black plastic, smacking his lips wetly and brandishing a whip. Let's face it, the fervor with which he is pursuing Bill, the unquenchable thirst to know every seamy detail, smacks of the sadosexual.

But maybe the most damning thing that can be said about all of this is that it's boring. It has long since ceased to be of any interest. It is no longer even entertaining. Even my regular Wednesday evening menopause story swap meet is more titillating. It's a great big, wildly expensive extravaganza that is putting the country to sleep. It's all sound and fury signifying nothing.

Letters:

To the Editor:

This week, much to the shame of many Mainers, our state became the first in the United States to repeal a "gay rights" law. The law wasn't specific to gay and lesbian individuals; all it did was add the words "sexual orientation" to the Maine Human Rights Act. Of course, sexual orientation means any sexual orientation — hetero-, homo- or bi-. But the Christian Coalition and its spokespeople portrayed this as a "special rights" law, spreading misinformation like "businesses will be required to hire a certain number of gay people," "Christian schools will be required to hire gay teachers, even if it's against their religion" (this, of course, was false, because in the law Christian schools and organizations were specifically exempted from compliance), and "a gay rights law will take rights away from straight people."

But the Christian Coalition isn't the only one to blame for the repeal of the "gay rights" law. Apathy is what really won this one. I talked to a couple of people the day after the referendum who hadn't voted. These potential no voters didn't vote because a) they figured this one was a no-brainer, and public opinion (based on polls, letters to the editor of newspapers, electronic "bbs" postings, etc.) seemed to be heavily against a repeal; or b) they just couldn't be bothered.

I'm galled and ashamed to think that a lot of people in my generation, the so-called "generation X," didn't go to the polls because of Option B. Despite the fact that many of us have friends we know are gay, lesbian or bisexual — and we don't see

them as being any different from our straight friends — we didn't figure it was worth it to go to the polls and give them some legitimate, tangible legal protection from discrimination. Despite the fact that we talk a good line about tolerance over beers at the local watering hole, we couldn't be bothered to get out and act on our beliefs. Despite the fact that many of my peers look condescendingly at the "ignorant, homophobic rednecks," most of us didn't do a damn thing to help anyone else understand why this law is important. And for our lack of action, we are to blame. I went to a Common Circle for Human Rights/Midcoast Won't Discriminate meeting last week, and there I met people who have been working for 20 years on getting a gay rights law in place in Maine. Twenty years! Twenty years ago, I was busy learning how to play "the Hustle" on my recorder and worrying about the fact that I was the only kid in the fourth grade whose school clothes included polyester doubleknit pants. These people have been fighting for gay rights — at great risk and with great courage — for longer than many of us have been alive. If we gen-Xers don't get busy and keep carrying the torch, their efforts — and all the efforts our parents made on behalf of peace, human rights and dignity for everyone — will have been for nothing.

We need to wake up, people. I know that we grew up in a time where it seems like there's no point in political activism, no reason to vote, because "there's nothing we can do to change things." While this may appear to be true at the federal level, it is patently not true at the state level.

Your energy, your activism, your votes, do make a difference in state politics.

It was 15.6 percent of the total registered voters in Maine who repealed the addition of the words "sexual orientation" to the Maine Human Rights Act. Let's prove that "generation X" is more than a marketing demographic. Let's prove that we're capable of doing something more important and far-reaching than planning a keg party. Let's put our attitudes into action, combine our energy and inspiration with the energy

and inspiration of others and get something done. Maine Won't Discriminate is still active, as are other human-rights organizations — get in touch with them and get involved. If you do nothing else, at least register to vote and then motivate yourself enough to get to the polls and vote when there's an election or referendum.

It's our country and our state, too, and we are its future. Let's do something to make that future a better one.

JaneA Kelley
Belfast

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my dismay and sorrow at the words and behavior of the "Christian Coalition." This group of people is using the media and the state government to put forward its own personal agendas, which I see as profoundly unchristian. I, too, am a Christian and I find it frightening that the followers of Jesus Christ (a k a Christians) are being unfairly represented by a small group of people whose actions are being driven by fear and hate, instead of the love Jesus teaches us. Over the years much evil has been done in the name of Christianity -- witch hunts, crusades, inquisitions, pogroms, forced "conversions" and much more. Now is the time for this subversion and division to stop! Through all the evil, the small voices and actions of the true Christians continue to shine as small beacons of light in our, sometimes, very dark world. Christ called us, the people who bear his name, to love our neighbors -- ALL PEOPLE, EVERYWHERE -- without concern for their color, ethnicity,

age, religion or sexual orientation. It is this unconditional love that will break down the walls of fear and hate and allow individual people to reach out to each other in peace.

I respectfully challenge all citizens of Maine who care about equality to let their voices and their actions show that discrimination and intolerance will not be allowed in this state. I am hoping that I can continue to be proud that I am both a Christian and a "Mainer."

Judy Grace Joy
Cherryfield

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading *Feminist Times* (December 1997), a Chanukkah gift from my mother who lives in Maine, until the last page featuring Koko Preston's piece, "Don't say Don't."

I was shocked and hurt by her language describing her Jewish neighbors who had rented the house next door one summer. Details such as the summer rental for "exorbitant amounts of

money" inhabited by a "Jewish clan headed by the stereotypical matriarch" perpetuate dangerous age-old stereotypes of Jews and Jewish women. They are also irrelevant to Ms. Preston's effort to share a valuable parenting tool exchanged between women.

If the mother next door had been a woman of color or a lesbian, would Ms. Preston have included information implying affluence, called the family a "clan" or referred to the woman as "the stereotypical matriarch?" How could a publication claiming to be devoted to eliminating racism and fostering dialogue between women allow such a piece to be printed?

Ms. Preston, when imparting words to (and from) the wise: Please be sensitive and DON'T use careless language to promote harmful stereotypes of minority women.

Rachel Prizant Kotok
San Francisco, CA

Dear Editor,

It was good to see the issues of old women highlighted in the February issue. The quotes from me appear in an unpublished paper I wrote as a graduate student in 1986, which is cited by Jennifer Hersey as if it were a book. The paper was an undated class handout in "Women and Aging" at the University of Maine. Ms. Hersey could not have known that this work is now too old to be quoted from. I am glad, though, that she called attention to the problem of overdrugging old women.

Margaret Cruikshank
School of Social Work
UMaine

Mabel Wadsworth Celebrates Opening

by Margaret Cox Murray

With one impressive pair of large, gold-style scissors, Mabel Wadsworth cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center at 362 Harlow St. (Intown Plaza) in Bangor. Ruth Lockhart, executive director of the center, then thanked members of the community for their support.

A private, nonprofit organization, the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center provides health care and community education services along with political advocacy.

The center was founded in 1984 in response to political pressures which sought to restrict women's choices in sexual and reproductive health and advocates within the political process to work for women's sexual and reproductive rights and to raise community awareness. Most important to the center's philosophy are the maintenance of a woman's right to choose abortion and advocacy for lesbian/gay rights.

A longtime activist and leader in the women's health movement, Mabel Wadsworth has been in the forefront of the political struggle to achieve and maintain reproductive rights for women in Maine since the 1940s and was one of the first inductees into the Women's Hall of Fame and a recipient of the prestigious Mary Ann Hartman Award.

On Oct. 1, the Mabel Wadsworth Women's



Health Center officially merged with Bangor Women's Health Care, formed in 1985 by Marley-DeRosier, a nurse practitioner.

Congressman John E. Baldacci, who was unable to attend the ceremony because of legislative business in Washington, was represented by assistant Lennie Mullen, and commended "all who have worked to make this expansion into a larger space possible. I also commend you as you stand on the front lines, ignoring the jeers of protesters as you seek to do your job: providing high quality, affordable health care to the people of Bangor."

Margaret Cox Murray is a free-lance writer. She lives in Bangor.

Prison Sentence for Peaceful Protest

More than 600 protestors marched on the U.S. Army's School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga., in November. Among the 22 people found guilty in a federal court in Georgia of trespassing were Sister Rita Steinhagen, 70, a Catholic nun from Minneapolis, Anne Herman, 64, a grandmother and advocate for the poor in Binghamton, N.Y., Carol Richardson, 53, director of the SOA (School of the Americas) Watch Washington, D.C., and Richard Streb, 72, a World War II combat veteran and retired professor of history and education from Roanoke, Va.

U.S. Magistrate William L. Slaughter handed down the maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$3,000 fine to each of the protesters.

The SOA has trained nearly 60,000 Latin American soldiers. Critics maintain that one in every 100 SOA graduates has been involved in human rights atrocities, drug trafficking or other criminal activity. Over two-thirds of the Salvadoran officers cited in a U.N. Truth Commission report for murder, rape and torture during El Salvador's civil war were trained at the Fort Benning school.

Sister Rita and other demonstrators think that if U.S. citizens understand that their tax money is being spent to train despots, rapists and murderers, they will be outraged and demand policy changes. It's not working out that way. While Sister Rita and Carol Richardson, Ann Herman and Richard Streb are being sent to prison for having the audacity to peacefully protest, the public is looking the other way.

Six months in prison and a \$3,000 fine for peaceful protest; no penalties for those who rape and murder.

Where the Women Are

(Continued from page 1.)

piece in 1921, she left two areas of the statue incomplete; one for the likeness of a woman leader to follow and the other to represent the work left to do to achieve equal rights and equal opportunity for women. In the words of Susan B. Anthony: "Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less."

The 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote was passed in 1920. "It was the first dramatic step," concluded Snowe, "towards the realization that a country founded on the vestment of power in the people would not survive if more than half those people were silenced. Let the story these women have told be silenced no longer. Let everyone who passes through this grandest of buildings forever hear their voices and be inspired by lives led in pursuit of justice."

Seneca Falls, N.Y. will be the site of a 150th anniversary celebration of the first women's rights convention July 16-19.

'If Men Wore Bras'

(Continued from Page 1.)

and where people live. "There are some political decisions that are essentially technological decisions," she says.

McGaw examined the history of the development of the brassiere as an example of technology that is little appreciated, yet complex. "If men wore bras, the bra would be a technology worth considering."

A debutante invented the first bra out of two handkerchiefs in 1913. Earlier garments were designed to cover and minimize the breasts, said McGaw, but the 1913 version supported and separated. This initial effort was refined and improved upon by others through the years. Each version was patented, thus recognizing the bra as not only a garment but also a technological advance. The 1920s era was characterized by the loose-fitting, drop-waisted dresses with a flat-chested look. The bra industry didn't become successful until the 1930s, said McGaw, when fashion once again emphasized breasts. The bra has been with us ever since, although it is not necessary for physical support. The notion that it prevents sagging breasts in later years has not been medically proven, she said. However, it does provide a measure of protection from sexual harassment by adding another layer of cloth over the breasts. Therefore, concluded McGaw, the bra is largely cosmetic in purpose. But then, she added, so is much of "real" technology, pointing out that cars serve a cosmetic purpose for male ego and independence and that industrial laboratories developed Spandex to make girdles lighter.

One of the major problems of bras is that they do not fit. McGaw has interviewed many women of all ages, and lack of comfort was a universal complaint.

This, she thinks, is not the fault of the bra manufacturers but is because the breast is living tissue. It varies not only from woman to woman, but from time to time for the same woman. She noted that in 1940, aeronautical engineer Howard Hughes was brought in to design a bra for Jane Russell for a movie. He spent an hour at it and, in so doing, seemingly

proved that "feminine technology is a piece of cake." However, Russell found the bra "uncomfortable and ridiculous" and instead wore her own bra, carefully concealed so as not to offend the male egos involved.

With its complex engineering and various components of synthetic and natural fibers, latex and metals, McGaw believes the bra is deeply representative of technology. It is also big business. She noted that Warnaco, which is headed by a woman, is a Fortune 500 company.

Currently, McGaw is writing a book about women and technology. "The purpose of the book is to empower people, especially women, about technology. I want them to have choices about technology and to insist upon those choices." The book focuses on seven technologies women have traditionally used: the brassiere, the bathroom, keyboards, the production of whiteness (laundry and cleaning), household filing systems (cupboards, drawers, etc.), fitness technology and guns. She has traveled around the nation talking to women and girls of all ages and studying these technologies. But McGaw is not trying to get more women onto the technology bandwagon. In fact, she'd like to see more skepticism among both men and women about technological change and whether that necessarily means progress. While at Westbrook College, she is researching the history of keyboard technology by searching through manuscripts in the Maine Women Writers Collection and interviewing alumnae from the former Westbrook Junior College secretarial programs.

Judith McGaw is the Dorothy Healy Visiting Professor for the spring semester at the University of New England. She is a professor of the history of technology in the department of history and sociology of science at the University of Pennsylvania, having been there for the past 17 years. McGaw is also a leader in the National Society for the History of Technology. Her lecture was given on Monday, March 9, at Ludke Auditorium at the University of New England's Westbrook College Campus.

Lucy G. Wendell-Thorpe is a columnist and former editor. She lives in Yarmouth.

PLACE YOUR AD
TODAY

CALL
338-1429

Revisiting Sexual Harrassment Law

by Jan Anderson

Sometimes it seems inevitable that common sense will rear its head, but in the area of sexual harrassment it doesn't appear likely. Now feminists have been caught in a defining moment, with Republican women legislators, including Maine Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, calling for a public accounting. The circumstances, accusations of sexual impropriety against President Clinton, lend an air of partisanship to the demand but the accounting is long overdue. When is sexual behavior harrassment?

In the April issue of the *Yale Law Journal*, Vicki Schultz, a law professor who researched the effects of sexual harrassment law for four years, suggests that prosecution of sexual harrassment needs to return to its foundation as an anti-discrimination law. In interview after interview Schultz found that sexual discrimination in the workplace often does not revolve around sex but denies women opportunities based on gender. She describes cases such as that of Margaret Reynolds, an electrician working on a crew at the Atlantic City

Convention Center. Reynold's co-workers would not work with her and laughed when she unloaded heavy boxes. She endured verbal abuse and obscene gestures, and a union official refused to put a lock on the showers women workers used. When the Miss America Pageant was in town, she was replaced with a male worker at the request of an exhibitor. Her claim was rejected in court because there was not enough sex -- nor was it judged to be a "hostile work environment," the other legal standard in the case.

"By focusing on sexual advances as the quintessential harrassment," Schultz suggests, "courts are encouraged to extend protection to women for the wrong reasons. Rather than emphasizing the use of harrassment law to promote women's empowerment and equality as workers, it appeals to judges to protect women's sexual virtue or sensibilities."

Schultz wants to return to the recognition of why there was a law of hostile work environment in the first place. The hostile work environment may include sexual advances, but not necessarily. She mentions a union training program in which the men are being taught the "five-second rule," which

prohibits men from looking at a female co-worker for longer than five seconds. "That's a form of discrimination itself," she asserts, "trying to put women in a category where you can't even look at them. That's not what women care about."

Now feminists, who made gender discrimination and sexual harrassment a household issue, are the subject of grave commentary in no less than *The New York Times*. The male opinion-makers are calling on feminists not to clarify and explain this issue, but to espouse a male understanding of sexual harrassment -- an idea that holds that women are children and cannot give or withhold consent and must be protected not just from forced sexual attention but from even the suggestion of sex.

Women legislators must not get caught up in playing party politics with the issue of sexual harrassment. As Gloria Steinem said in *The New York Times*, women want the respect demonstrated by men understanding that "no means no". The real violators of Paula Jones are the conservative men who have used her to pursue and discredit President Clinton.

Bella Abzug, 1920-1998

She did it her way, independently, with intelligence, determination, courage.

Independence? Courage? Intelligence? Determination?

As a labor and civil rights lawyer, during the height of McCarthyism, she was one of the few independent attorneys brave enough to represent blacklisted teachers, entertainers and writers. In 1950, while pregnant, she risked her life by going to Mississippi to defend Willie McGee, a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman. The case received international notice.

She was also an author, lecturer, news commentator and former U.S. representative from New York. She was a lifelong activist in support of civil rights, equal rights for women and disarmament. She represented all women at the Non-Governmental Organization gathering in Beijing.

In 1970 she became the first woman elected to Congress on a women's rights/peace platform. On her first day in the House of Representatives, she introduced a resolution calling for the withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam. She introduced the first resolution calling for the impeachment of Richard Nixon (for his secret bombing of Cambodia), the first federal gay civil rights bill and the first bill to decriminalize marijuana. One op ed piece described her as a "skilled legislative horse trader." She co-authored the Freedom of Information and Privacy acts and cast one of the first votes for the Equal Rights Amendment.

"You can't have a Congress that responds to the needs of the workingman when there are practically no people here who represent him. And you're not going to have a society that understands its humanity if you don't have more women in government," she said in 1974.

In her own words: "I've been described as a tough and noisy woman, a prize fighter, a man-hater, you name it. They call me Battling Bella, Mother Courage, and a Jewish mother with more complaints than Portnoy. There are those who say I'm impatient, impetuous, uppity, rude, profane, brash, and overbearing. Whether I'm any of those things, or all of them, you can decide for yourself. But whatever I am -- and this ought to be made very clear at the outset -- I am a very serious woman."

Bella Abzug was a woman who was not afraid to open her mouth and speak her truth, whether anyone liked it, approved of it, or not. A woman whom other women could trust.

She was tough. She will be missed.



Nancy Oden, CLEAN Maine Independent candidate for governor. She may be reached at 283 Water St., 3rd floor, Augusta, ME 04330; NancyOden@Cleanmaine.org; WEB: <http://www.cleanmaine.org>; 622-0094.

Women Helping Women:

Need a computer for your grassroots organization? The National Congress of Neighborhood Women (NCNW) is seeking local grassroots organizations that provide services for women and children in their community to receive one of 200 older computers, new modem installed, for about \$150. Cost includes membership in NCNW and shipping. Computer useful for e-mailing, word processing and record keeping. Call Susan Guthrie, 338-6140 FMI.

Give the Gift that lasts all year...

A Subscription to

FEMINIST TIMES

Name: _____

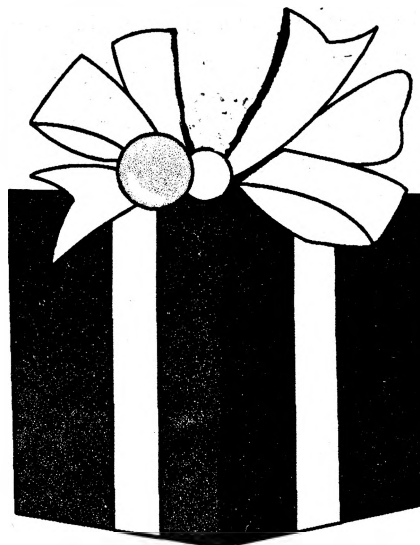
Address: _____

I have enclosed:

☐ \$15.00 for a 1 year gift

☐ \$25.00 for a 2 year gift

Mail gift subscription to: _____



IF NOT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, THEN WHAT?

by Margaret Cox Murray

That was the question posed by Joanna Lee, director of Affirmative Action for Bates College, speaking on Feb. 11 at the University of Maine for the Women's Studies Program's Women in the Curriculum luncheon series.

Lee explained what she feels is her mission -- equality for all people -- and emphasized how everyone has benefited from affirmative action... even white males.

"Often when people think of affirmative action," said Lee, "they think of quotas, when, in fact, quotas are illegal." As Lee points out, "Affirmative action does not promise a job or entrance to a university, but it gives women, persons of color, the elderly and persons with disabilities the right to be part of a pool for consideration for employment or university admission." Affirmative action guidelines make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of age, race, gender, disabilities. Affirmative action debate is growing, she said, and discussion in support of affirmative action

has waned. Through her administrative experience in higher education, Lee has noticed how a particular comment made during a meeting by a woman might be ignored or dismissed until the same point would be mentioned by a white male in the same meeting. As a woman of color, Lee realized that many problems for women had to do with not only race alone, but with gender, as well.

The legal framework of affirmative action includes the fifth amendment due process clause (passed prior to the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery), the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and Executive Order 11246 (1965), signed by President Johnson. Executive Order 11246 requires equal employment and affirmative action, and specifically prohibits quotas. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bans discrimination on the basis of sex as well as race. The due process clause reads, "no person shall ... be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

Moreover, additional executive orders have affected affirmative action with respect to age, disabilities and Vietnam veterans (all of which include

white males), along with race and gender. The equal pay act prohibits unequal pay for men and women if jobs are performed under similar conditions. Nevertheless, employers can find ways to get around these requirements. According to Lee, "We as supporters of affirmative action need to be on our toes."

The greatest beneficiaries of affirmative action have been white women, Lee said. Women of color are still not making as many gains as their white counterparts.

Lee says that affirmative action is often blamed when jobs are scarce due to other factors or when companies move to another location. Budget cuts will affect affirmative action. Some of the first programs to go at the university level, for example, will be women's studies and African American studies because they are seen as nonessential to a student's education.

Lee mentions the need for a dialogue with white males in the workplace. Hiring and promotion for women and minorities are at risk. In a case of discrimination, she encourages filing a complaint or grievance, although

she says very few people do so on the basis of race or religion because of lack of funds to help with legal cost.

"Ironically," says Lee, "according to polls, most people are not opposed to affirmative action, but that is not the way it is portrayed in the media." She discussed a Texas case where a circuit court eliminated affirmative action in admissions even though the citizens were supportive of affirmative action.

Lee points to a recent vote in Maine concerning gay rights as an example of what could happen to affirmative action. According to Lee, "We need to take a hard look at making changes in affirmative action rather than eliminating it altogether."

She encouraged participants to work with affirmative action officers, to work together as women, and to work with men who are supportive of affirmative action. Otherwise, she says, "We risk returning to the pre-civil rights days."

For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program, 5728 Fernald Hall, Room 101, University of Maine, Orono 04469-5728; 581-1228.

Breast-feeding in the Line of Fire

In the United States, less than 60 percent of women are nursing their newborn infant at the time of hospital discharge, and fewer than 22 percent continue to nurse six months later, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). This is far less than the official U.S. goals for breast-feeding which are to have 75 percent at initiation and 50 percent at six months by the year 2000, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. For working women, the rates are even lower. About 55 percent of women employed outside the home start out breast-feeding their babies, but only 12.5 percent of full-time working mothers keep nursing for at least five months.

Studies show that employers, as well as mothers and infants, would gain substantially from making arrangements to enable working women to keep breast-feeding. Babies fed breast milk tend to be healthier, better developed and more intelligent than those fed infant formula. Even babies who are only partially breast-fed benefit considerably, pediatricians say. As a result, employers who support breast-feeding mothers benefit from lower parental absenteeism and reduced health-insurance costs -- saving as much as \$1,400 per baby per year, studies show.

Several large companies such as Amoco, Aetna, Kodak, as well as government agencies, offer nursing mothers on-site lactation rooms and equipment. The family-friendly programs also boost the loyalty and productivity of returning mothers, studies indicate.

In spite of this, many employers' policies and attitudes discourage women who want to continue breast-feeding once they return to work, say experts and advocates.

A bill introduced in Congress last week, the New Mothers' Breastfeeding Promotion and Protection Act, is designed to remedy the problem. The bill would guarantee the right of working women to breast-feed and grant them unpaid breaks of up to an hour a day to express milk during their child's first year. It would also offer tax credits for employers who set up nursing stations, provide breast pumps, or hire lactation consultants. The bill marks the culmination of a recent wave of legislation in states and localities aimed at countering what experts view as deep-seated cultural, social and economic bias against breast-feeding in the United States. It follows new pediatric guidelines that urge women to nurse their babies for a full year.

"New moms are being torn between holding on to their jobs and providing the healthiest nutrition possible for their new baby," says Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), who introduced the bill with the backing of 15 Democrat co-sponsors. "There is no Republican interest yet," says a spokeswoman for Maloney. She says the Democrats are trying to gather more co-sponsors and are counting on a positive response from the public to the proposed legislation. But garnering widespread support may not be easy.

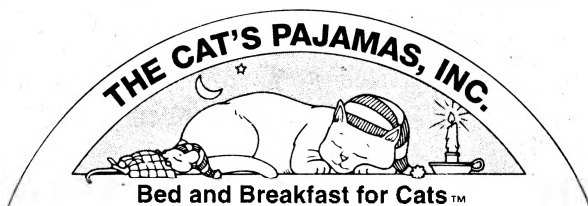
Some Americans have an emotional aversion to breast-feeding, finding it "abhorrent" says Lawrence Gartner, chair of the AAP's work group on breast-feeding. Other people view nursing as indecent. Indeed, much of the wave of breast-feeding legislation enacted in 14 states over the past four years has clarified that nursing in public is not indecent exposure, and thus not criminal behavior.

"The United States more than any other country has made the breast a sex object to the exclusion of its biologic functions," says Professor Gartner of the University of Chicago.

American Airlines Human Rights Advocate

American Airlines is a major sponsor to and supporter of groups like GLADD, the Human Rights Campaign, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the AIDS Action Foundation, DIFFA, AmFAR, and scores of community-based groups representing gays and lesbians. It is also the first airline to adopt a written nondiscrimination policy covering sexual orientation in its employment practices.

In an unusual joint letter released to the media March 14 from the Family Research Council, Concerned Women of America, American Family Association and Coral Ridge Ministries, American Airlines was openly criticized about its policy. Radical right leader Beverly LaHaye went on Christian "talk radio" to blast American Airlines because "American's sponsorship of homosexual 'pride' events constitutes an open endorsement of promiscuous homosexuality." She and the other groups have written Bob Crandall at American to complain that the airline has "gone beyond mere tolerance" of gays and lesbians. The full article appears in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and possibly picked up by other newspapers around the country. It has come to the attention of the gay and lesbian community that American Airlines' switchboard and e-mails are being bombarded now by homophobic and hateful callers who have been urged by LaHaye and others to demand the company terminate its gay-friendly policies.



Corelyn Senn

RR2 Box 34 • Lincolnville, Maine 04849 • (207) 789-5139



Back Door to the Moon
Specialties for the Mind, Body & Soul

Tuesday-Saturday
10am-6pm

5 Dunn Street Oakland, Maine 04963
(207) 465-7005 Voice (207) 465-9867 Fax
email-moon@mint.net

come when you can, leave when you must

Women in Business...

Michelle Walker --

Finding Softness in the Hard World of Business

by Tracy Lord

BELFAST -- Walk into Coyote Moon and candles and clothing, jewelry and perfume fill the eyes and alert the senses. Music is in the air, and light dances from the glass ornaments suspended from the ceiling. There is a decidedly different feel to this shop. It is, as owner Michelle Walker says, "a place with soul."

Six years ago, with no retail experience and little capital, Walker decided Belfast was the perfect place to open a store that reflected her desire to do it differently -- and in a quiet, remarkable, sense she has succeeded, beautifully.

Or perhaps it is because of her sense of beauty and her belief others need to see it around them that she draws people from around the country into Coyote Moon. To hear the soft sound of water running through a pale pink quartz fountain, to finger elegant clothing, dresses and jackets, hats and jackets made of linen and silk, cotton and rayon. To leaf through books on re-engaging joy with life, to sample the enormous selection of lotions and creams, oils and incense.

Simply written nudges for the psyche adorn cases holding petroleum-free candles and cruelty-free soaps. "Make room for yourself", "Everyone is afraid of Something," and "Love is our Guide," they remind the browsing customers.

"My intention with my business is to create a place of beauty where people can come and nourish themselves and find products that mean something to them with regards to beauty and spirit and growth," says Walker.

It is definitely a woman-oriented shop -- to the point where, as Walker says, it is too much for some men. "We have guys who walk in with their wives and are just overwhelmed by what they see. They turn and say 'I'll wait for you outside.'" Not that they don't appreciate Coyote Moon when it's time to buy a gift. "We have a lot of men who buy for the woman in their life, and we try our best to help them. They seem to really respond to our care and concern."

That driving philosophy has led to a shop that is balanced, not only in its inventory but in its staff. Walker employs a "circular managerial style," where everyone is responsible for everyone else. "They have power and are responsible for representing the values of the store. There is a lot of creativity in the daily work," she says.

Monthly staff meetings keep the six employees in touch with each other and various concerns. And since Walker started studies at California's Pacifica Graduate Institute, the meetings are even more important.

"When I first started the shop, I was the force behind the business. That is no longer the case. I created the skeleton, but my staff has added the flesh. And it is constantly evolving."

Walker's educational quest is grist for more than one mill. Not only have her foray's into integrating soul into her work prompted a commitment in her and the staff to keeping the shop's environment a harmonious one, "it also keeps relationships clear and clean. I've created a form where it works out pretty well."

Now that Walker splits her time between Coyote Moon, monthly travels to California and time at an internship at Choice Skyward, a substance abuse center in Rockland, her shop has become an even greater respite for her. "This is a place of rejuvenation for me. And my studies allowed me to truly appreciate the playfulness in my business."



With such success, thoughts of expanding routinely crop up in Walker's head. "Every time I've investigated enlarging, or starting a new store, I come back to what it was that motivated me to begin this one, and it really doesn't make sense to do more."

Instead, Walker envisions coupling her upcoming psychology degree with workshops or mentoring programs for women entering the work force without necessary skills. "I would like to help women get on their feet, to help create meaningful work for them."

A life in the retail arena does cause some

questions for Walker, who seeks to reconcile commercialism with spiritual growth. "I've stewed over this one for a long time. But what I've found is what's felt is most important. Offering something to life, opening possibilities to those who come into the shop is how we give back. How we relate to the merchandise, how we honor what we do helps move us forward."

A while ago, Walker wrote an essay, published in the Buddhist journal *Turning Wheel*, in response to her growing concern between spiritual growth and consumerism. She writes of the pain and guilt involved in being at a large trade show in New York, the manifestation of greed and insatiability and the continuing exploitation of workers in Third World countries -- workers who create much of the merchandise shown.

"We are grossly ignorant as consumers. Things come from stores; that is often all we know. Not so long ago, people knew where their food and clothing came from: local vegetables, local artisan, local cow. Now we have a highly complex world market. I eat food that comes from halfway around the world, and it's hard to find the answers to those questions," she writes.

"These questions are much larger than I am, and to expect myself not only to have all the answers but to be implementing them already is to do violence to myself. Patience is necessary in order to investigate right living," Walker concludes.

So as the investigation continues, those who patronize the unique confines of Coyote Moon might not only contribute in a subtle way to the unfolding of life's riddles, but to Michelle Walker's vision.

"One of my discoveries," says Walker, "is that the business is a living and growing entity. It will continue to grow. I need to take care of that -- of what wants to happen. There is a life force, a spirit here."

HOPE

HELP ORGANIZE PEACE EARTHWIDE

FESTIVAL Earth Day, 1998

Saturday, April 25, 10 AM-5 PM

Brewer Auditorium, Brewer, ME

(State and Wilson Streets near Brewer Shopping Center)

Ethical Investing

by Fritz Weidner

FAQ's in Investment Strategy

1. *My IRA (my primary investment) is in a bank CD and I want to make more money by putting it into ethical mutual funds. What are the good ones and what risks are there?*

Your IRA has had no risk related to the stock or bond markets, and you face both timing and market risk if you put the whole thing into a mutual fund at once. The exception in this risk has to do with your age now. If you have more than 20 years to retirement you could put half you IRA right away into an ethical stock fund, and if you have more than 30 years to retirement you could put the whole thing in. If not, I suggest moving your IRA to Citizens Working Assets money market fund (1-800-223-7010), then gradually placing one-tenth of your IRA from that to one of their several ethical stock funds each month by telephone. Why such a complicated formula? Market risk declines with time. There has never been a 15-year period in the U.S. when a good quality stock investment didn't do all right. But as the time span shortens, there is a greater risk, that with hindsight, one had "poor timing."

2. *You've mentioned Pax World Fund as well as its newly formed Pax Growth Fund. How do they differ?*

Something terrible came to my attention a month ago about the new growth fund: It has shares of Nestlé's. The old, original Pax World Fund continues to have socially responsible stocks and bonds in it and continues with good performance. But the growth fund has shares of a firm that by reports I have read is an example of "Greenwash." For example, Nestlé's publicizes its use of alternate products for pallets at its Canadian factory, so they save trees. But a number of baby-milk activist groups have renewed their boycott of the firm because it not only pushes its infant formula (giving it away in third-world maternity wards even when not legal to do so, giving gifts to health workers there to offer formula for weaning babies at 3 months, etc.) but is aggressively involved in marketing genetically engineered agricultural products. As readers here know from previous columns by me, Nestlé's was reluctant to remove its unsafe, chocolate covered toy from U.S. markets last year and finally did so only after enormous pressure. For me, as a father of four children, all of whom nursed, at least, to some extent, I know that there are times when every imaginable support is needed to help the nursing mother succeed. The very idea of dissuading women, giving gifts to health-care workers to do that, having various subtle ways to undermine the nursing process, is unconscionable. I wrote to Pax Growth Fund, and the response was that the head of social research had not seen in its files any of the complaints I raised. So I say, not only stay away from Pax Growth Fund, but feel free to write the manager: Robert P. Colin, 222 State St., Portsmouth, NH 03801-3853. Oh yes, my wife and daughter are selling their shares of Pax Growth Fund because of this information.

3. *If you had to pick one socially responsible stock, what is it?*

This stock may not perform as well as the general markets but is an outfit that began its socially responsible outreach in 1888 by including conservation cards in its baking soda boxes. The company does not have women on the board and has only one high-level woman executive. But I wish that folks would invest in this company and tell them to shape up in this one regard, because its business is inherently good for the environment, and many corporate practices are socially responsible. For example, the company makes bicarbonate-based solvents that compete with petroleum-based ones. The company has been helpful to homeless groups and offers recipes for children to make safe play-dough. The brand name is Arm and Hammer and the company, Church and Dwight, trades under the symbol, CHD. You can buy a few shares and join its dividend reinvestment plan to purchase extra shares without a broker's fee. I believe this is a good firm with which to get involved. If it had women on the board, I think it would be a lot more creative and then get the share price up more too. Remember, you have a strong voice as a shareholder, and the company will listen.

Fritz Weidner is an ethical investment adviser living in East Vassalboro. He can be reached at weidner@pivot.net. Send questions for this column to Jan Anderson at Feminist Times.

Fritz Weidner

Ethical Stock Picker with Good Track Record
Individualized portfolio management
based on your values and goals

207-923-3667 or weidner@pivot.net

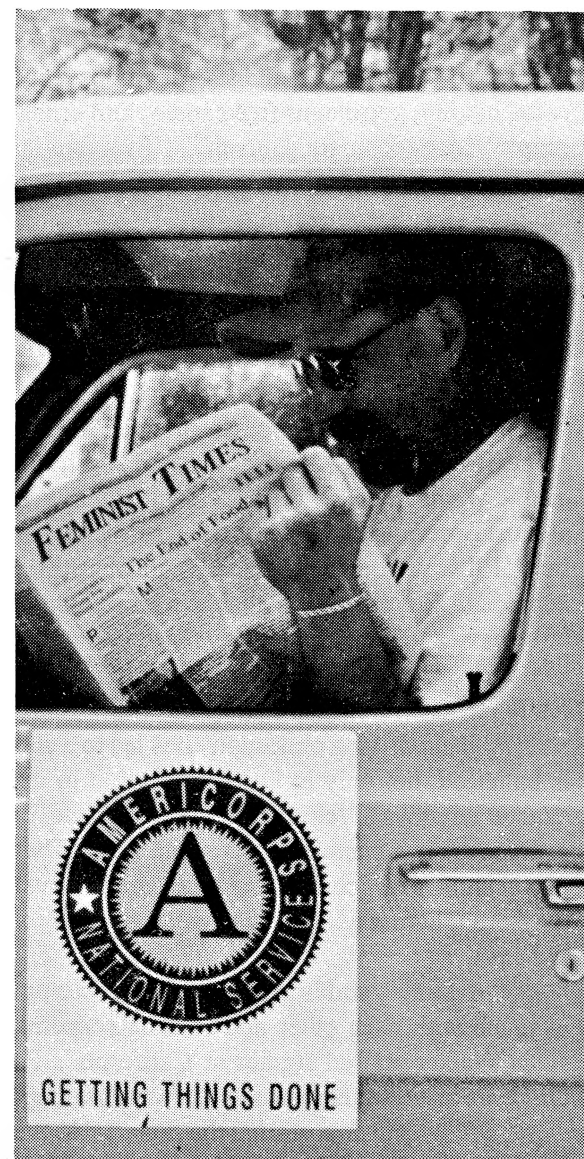
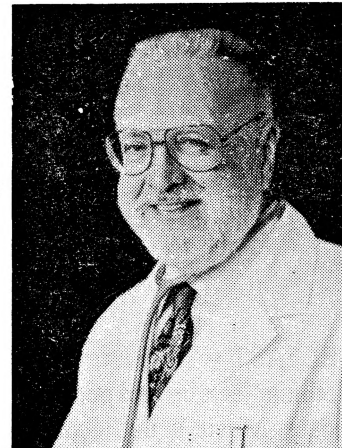
Alternative To Hysterectomy

BELFAST -- Gynecologist August C. Schwenk, M.D., attended the World Congress of Hysteroscopy and Related Technologies in the Management of Abnormal Uterine Bleeding held in Miami, Fla.; the focus of which was to educate physicians about the new and less invasive technologies available for the control of abnormal vaginal bleeding.

AUB can occur in perimenopausal women and also women on estrogen replacement therapy who are postmenopausal. Excessive irregular bleeding is the second most common reason for women to seek gynecological services.

Hysteroscopy has become an alternative to hysterectomy primarily because it is less invasive and can be performed on an outpatient basis. In fact, according to Schwenk, "Hysteroscopy has become the gold standard against which all other technologies are measured for patients seeking alternatives to hysterectomy for their AUB."

advances in fiber optic technology have allowed the diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy to simultaneously become both "standard of care" and "state of the art" procedures, according to Schwenk. He sees patients in association with Dr. Eleanor Handler in the Women's Center for Health at Waldo County General Hospital.



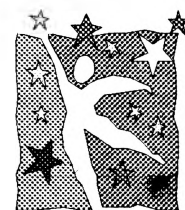
There
are
Those
who
Know
What
Comes
First

depressed?

Stinks, doesn't it?
We know. We've been there, too.
But there is hope.
Check us out.

Linda M. Hertell, M.S.
The Mood Disorders Network
63 Third Street, Auburn ME 04210
Call: 207.783.2980

Short-term individual/couples support on mood disorders.
Or try *The Moody News*, our bi-monthly newsletter (\$14, individuals; \$18, professionals)...Like a support group in your own home.



Women in the Arts...

In the Spotlight ~

Casting Off --

Katherine Cobey Knits Personal Politics into Sculpture

by Tracy Lord

CUSHING- Katherine Cobey sits in a rocking chair. Knitting needles punctuate her thoughts as the sun streams through the picture window overlooking a shining Meduncook River. An enormous spinning wheel perches over her shoulder, and baskets, soft with newly spun linen, silk and wool, line the floor of her Fiber Work studio.

She's encompassed in a woolen wrap, her white hair piled onto her head, and has carefully set out tea for us. But don't get any idea that this is a picture of a gentle, sweet grandmother making booties for her next grandchild. Katherine Cobey is out, not necessarily intentionally, but just because of who she is as an individual, to put any stereotypes to rest about women, knitting and the politics of gender.

"I don't tell galleries I knit -- I tell them I sculpt," she says, surrounded by the objects of her passion. Cobey uses fibers made by both animal and human: fibers that are new, fibers that are recycled, and fibers most would not ordinarily connect to the art of knitting.

Behind her, a full-length black coat, complete with boa, hangs so gracefully it takes more than one look to recognize the material: deftly woven strips of garbage bags. Titled *Slick*, it is Cobey's reaction to the Gulf War. *Loose Ends*, a lovely wedding gown made from white kitchen trash bags, is currently on a 12-museum tour for the next year. Dangling in front of the window is *Knitting Gesture*, a coppery transparent glove made from Chore Boys kitchen scrubbers. A circle of crucifix covered in shrouds stand in Cobey's



Ritual Against Homelessness. And up the spiral staircase that divides her studio hangs her *Portrait of Alzheimer's*. Created by the reaction to her mother's bout with the disease, it drapes on a wooden coat hanger. A fine, white shawl, delicate and complicated at one end, but at the other, while still recognizable as a shawl, is an article gone helter-skelter, filled with holes, finally recognizable as an unraveled heap.

Her pieces exemplify life's duality. Beauty laced with anger, form with futility, confidence with terror. Omniscient in all is Cobey's passion to communicate. "I knit because I have discovered it 'makes' and 'holds' what I feel, think and want to say better than other ways of making," she says.

Stacks of carefully folded sweaters, muted and elegant, tops and scarves, fill an antique armoire. A comment on Cobey's versatility, they are as creatively fulfilling as her installations. "When you make a coat, it is that fulcrum balancing the abstraction with reality that is interesting to me."

A literature graduate from Bennington College, Cobey's writing career (a published poet in both the United States and Britain), ended rather suddenly in 1978 when an accident forced her into spending long periods of time simply sitting. "There was so much of that with writing, when it became evident a sitting position was where I would be even more of the time, I began to knit. I was probably a bit more passionate than most, but not very good. My sweaters were unusual. They had pleats. It wasn't really part of the preppy look of the late '70s."

Her work, a blending of art and philosophy, with a goodly measure of functionalism thrown in, reflects her literary bent and innovative eye. Early in her knitting career, Cobey quickly caught the eye of Washington, D.C., gallery owners, where she was living at the time. By 1992 she'd had one-person shows at The Textile Museum, The Target Gallery, the Torpedo Factory Art Center and the Capitol Children's Museum. She'd taught numerous workshops for schools and

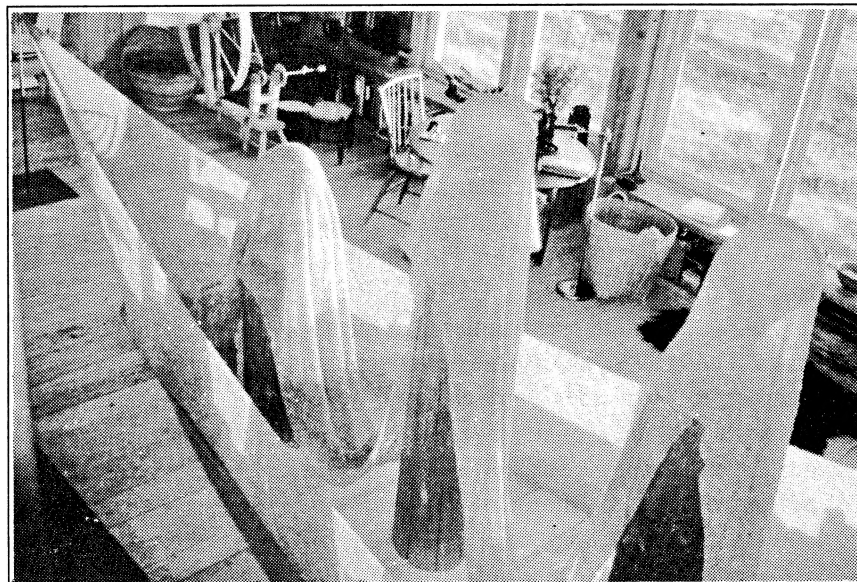
workshops, and landed best of show and artist and volunteer of the year for organizations as diverse as Cobey is: The National Park Service, the Embassy of New Zealand, and Ohio's Contemporary Works of Faith.

Since moving to Maine in 1992, Cobey's work has graced galleries, festivals and conferences around the country. A member of the Maine Guild of Spinners and Weavers, Cobey offers classes to a group of painters and sculptors at her studio. "We focus on looseness. Sometimes I wonder why they come and suffer," she says with a gleam in her eye. "But I plan very hard to meet their needs and they keep coming back."

While her career has been meteoric in its success, Cobey is no stranger to fear in the marketplace. Mostly, because as she herself admits, she is not terribly practical

when it comes to managing the marketing of her work. "I do these things, and then wonder how I'll ever show them."

Take *Fero, Ferri, Tuli Latusor Boat with Four Figures*. The Latin title is the conjugation of the verb "to ferry." A response to a silhouette of fishermen she



Boat with four figures.

once glanced at while living on the Potomac, the image became the inspiration for a 30-foot-long installation. "It was a terrifying thing to attempt, so naturally, I had to try it," says Cobey, perhaps articulating her mantra.

The 120-foot-long shroud forms a boat, complete with four wooden figures. "I never had carved before, but that didn't matter. I didn't know enough to be stopped by that, so I went on." It required six years of Cobey's time, and she has yet to find a museum large enough to install it. Still, she doesn't regret it. "When I first did *Homelessness* I didn't know where it would end up, but it led to two shows." As it turns out, there is an upcoming show that may well include *Fero* in the exhibit. That positive energy carries Cobey, who also happens to be a grandmother, along her self-proclaimed "bumptious, creative way." And her role? "I love being a grandmother. It gives me a chance to subvert my grandchildren," says this woman who uses fibers to give shape to her politics.

Katherine Cobey teaches solo or group classes. Call for times at Fiber Work, 354-6762.



Portrait of Alzheimers.

✂ Check out these Web sites:

The New Girl Order on the Web site for BUST, the NYC-based girlie zine for women who know that *Cosmo* is clueless, *Vogue* is vapid and *Glamour* is garbage. Come on in, pull up a stool and gab with the girls in the ever-popular Lounge, read stories from our past issues, add links to our Girl Wide Web page, and find out everything you ever wanted to know about BUST but were afraid to ask.

gURL: gURL is a different approach to the experience of being a teenage girl. Our Web zine uses frank writing, visuals and liberal doses of humor to give girls a new way of looking at subjects that are crucial to their lives. We discuss issues that affect girls age 14 and up in smart, funny, nonjudgmental and personalized ways. This mindset and aesthetic extend to our community, the gURL connection, where teenage girls have the unique opportunity to connect with each other in ways not possible in other media.

HUES: The print mag *HUES* is billed as "a woman's guide to power and attitude, promoting self-esteem among women of all cultures, shapes, religions and life-styles." *HUES* On-line pulls some of the juiciest features and tidbits from the mag and makes 'em global then adds a dash of Web-only goodies, like a bulletin board, expanded Cybermama area, and other play areas.

MAXI: Just because you wear lipstick doesn't mean you can't talk politics too: *Maxi* magazine is for urban-minded women who know that consumption should be taken with a grain of criticism. Bi-monthly topics dissect issues that women all relate to -- the body, work, relationship, etc -- and weekly features dissect the media, pop culture and the arts, current events, and of course, the things we buy and can't live without.

Minx: MINX, "the feminine product that keeps you fresh," is a Web zine and weekly net show for Ms. Thing and her admirers. You get a healthy blend of sex, fashion, art and life from the zine that's committed to GUILT-FREE PLEASURE, i.e., blinding no bunnies in its quest for beauty. The MINX gals dish the dirt on topics from salary equity to women's erotica, with a new show every week and a quarterly zine. Always provocative and never pedantic, MINX is for all the wwwomen (and mm-mm-men!) who verge on too fabulous for their own good.

Wench: Women today are at a crossroads: The women's movement has made it possible for them to achieve more than ever before, even as a rising conservative movement wants to take away what they have earned. *Wench* is a guide to the choices of the next millennium. Full of personal essays, frank criticism, insightful commentary and a biting sense of humor, *Wench* charts the social and political terrain in which women live and helps women and men alike understand where we all need to go.

Women's Zone: The Women's Zone is a meeting place for women who do it themselves. Meet women who are redefining feminism without being defined by it. The Zone began as a weekly column on Tripod and has become its own channel, brought to you by Tripod. Emma Taylor is the editor, and Bernadette Noll is columnist and co-conference host.

Business Leader Says Girls Deserve Their 'Just Desserts'

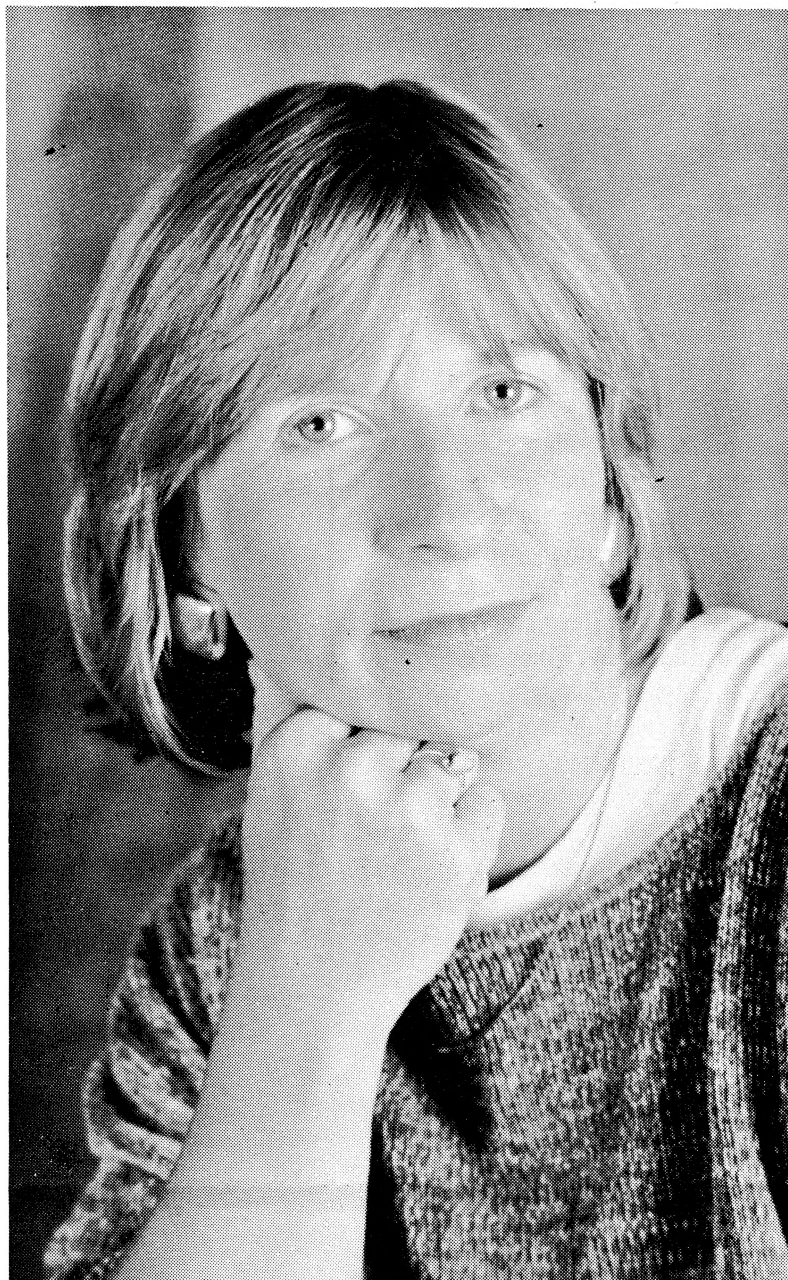
CAMDEN -- Joline Godfrey's message to girls is: "Business isn't Spinach."

Godfrey, a Bangor native, is author of several books on women and girls economic empowerment, founder and CEO of Independent Means, Inc., a national organization of entrepreneurship education for teen women. She was the keynote speaker at the fifth annual WITH Girls conference, "Strut Your Stuff (& Strive for Success)" March 28.

Godfrey's message was the underlying theme for the conference. She believes that many of us grew up hearing that the time for play only comes after work is done (just as dessert comes after spinach), but the truth, she says, is work and play can be integrated to maximize learning.

Independent Means, Inc., a California-based company, provides entrepreneurial education and economic literacy programs and products designed specifically for teen women and aims to give girls and young women the tools, knowledge and experience to prepare them for independence and economic wellbeing. Godfrey notes that the workforce of the future must be prepared to make jobs not just take jobs.

The all-day conference was sponsored by WITH Girls, Women's Initiative To Help Girls, whose mission is to support the unfolding of female spirit and potential in girls and young women.



HELP WANTED

Woman Automotive Technician for progressive shop. Experience and inspection license a plus.

Call BJ's Automotive Diagnostic Center.
338-1432; 219 Waldo Ave., Belfast.

Flying Solo...

Offering support, empowerment and lifestyle coping strategies to people who are single by choice or by chance (never married, divorced or widowed). If you are between dates, mates or partners check out *Flying Solo*. Free newsletter available on request.
PO Box 1373, Saco, 04072; 284-7847; email: cheryllk@nls.net

Advertising... Using Your Dollars Wisely

"Magazines and other targeted monthly publications are very successful in reaching certain kinds of selected audiences. They have a long shelf life; are often read for at least a month are passed along from one reader to another increasing its reach."

Tara Kennedy
Media Consultant

Administrative Assistant

One of the hottest presses on the left has an opening for an administrative assistant. Must have exceptional organizational skills, solid computer experience, excellent phone skills, be a problem solver, be willing to alternate between multiple tasks in a high pressure, deadline-driven environment.

Resumes and references to:

Flic Shooter
Common Courage Press
Box 702, Monroe, ME 04951

Research Project:

Women Choosing Women

Looking to interview women who've left heterosexual lives (15 years or more) for lesbian (women-centered) ones. To learn more, contact Teresa Arendell, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, Colby College, Waterville, ME 04901. 207-872-3135. tjarende@colby.edu.

HELP WANTED

Common Courage Press has production/marketing positions open. Send resume to Flic Shooter, Box 702, Monroe, ME 04951.

For details call 525-0900.

Book Review • Prose • Poetry

Redeeming Psychotherapy, Saving Souls

The Soul's Code: In Search of Character and Calling by James Hillman

Warner NY 1997 paper \$12.99

by Ellen LaConte

In one of his boat-rocking earlier works -- *We've had a Hundred Years of Psychotherapy and the World's Getting Worse*, written with Michael Ventura, James Hillman proposed that "for ideas to be therapeutic, that is, beneficial to the soul and body politic, they must gather in to themselves, garnering force, building strength, like great movers of the mind's furniture, so that the space we inhabit is rearranged." Hillman is a Jungian analyst and teacher who has had considerable success making connections between Greek archetypes of human nature and contemporary society's struggles to come to terms with death, destiny, gender roles, avocation, family relationships, -- the whole meaning-making enterprise. Because his work has not been as accessible as the similar best-selling work of Thomas More, Hillman's has not until now been a household name. The *Soul's Code* is changing all that because it actually does propose and develop an idea that is therapeutic, accumulates persuasive force, can change the way we see things, and has staying power.

I was drawn to *The Soul's Code* by reviews which said it suggested that everyone has a destiny and can work with it once they recognize that they do. This particular therapeutic idea he called "the acorn theory." The theory appealed to me because it was organic and because I had been trying to find a way to make sense of the "fated" life of my mentor, the late Helen Nearing. The "acorn theory" seemed to do that in terms like the ones Helen used to describe her life. She was preoccupied with character, what she called "moral character," typically putting the qualifier "high" in front of it, a phrase she used sparingly to describe such greats as her husband Scott, Gandhi and Tolstoy, but not herself or anyone

wishy-washy or primarily self-interested. The greats "came with it," she said, while she was still finding her way to it. To attain it was her conscious calling, her soul's destiny, and she thought mine, too. Any progress we might make along those lines would be owed to some combination of fate, effort, the right intentions, and the willingness of destiny to come out to meet us, however far we might get. Hillman's subtitle was a carrot on a stick for me.

The acorn theory, in a nutshell: "[E]ach person bears a uniqueness that asks to be lived and that is already present," like the germ, shape and capacities of the oak in its acorn, "before it can be lived. ... The soul of each of us is given an unique daimon," genius, or guardian angel, "before we are born, and it has selected an image or pattern that we live on earth. This soul-companion, the daimon, guides us here." Whatever the vicissitudes of your life, "it remembers ... what is in your image and belongs to your pattern." The extent to which the daimon demands and receives or is simply given recognition is the extent to which the life unfolds fully and with seeming ease, or partially and with difficulty.

In chapters with such provoking titles as "The Parental Fallacy," "Neither Nature nor Nurture-Something Else," "Fate," "The Bad Seed," and "Mediocrity," Hillman examines his themes using reconsidered lives of the famous -- Judy Garland, Josephine Baker, bullfighter Manolete, Churchill, Ingmar Bergmann, for example -- and the infamous -- Hitler, Dahmer, Manson -- to put flesh to his theory. Sometimes the theory seems a tad too neat, the fit of the celebrities lives a bit too pat, but their familiarity is part of the book's popular success, and the acorn theory is spacious enough to contain a lot.

I hazard to guess that *The Soul's Code* is a best seller partly because it describes life and our lives in reader-friendly terms that are liberating, inspiring and encouraging to those among us who have wondered what they and "it" are

(Continued on page 12.)

Sarton Generous, Insecure

May Sarton, Selected Letters, 1916-1954.

Edited and introduced by Susan Sherman.

W.W. Norton. 1997. \$35.00.

Review by Deborah Straw

Although May Sarton died in summer 1995, we readers of her work are fortunate to have a splendid new volume, a collection of her early letters, to add to our libraries. Wisely edited by her friend Susan Sherman, *May Sarton, Selected Letters, 1916-1954*, is a treasure. This is meaty writing, worthy of rereading several times, as is *Journal of a Solitude*, her classic, first journal. Sarton's strong, passionate voice, untouched by her later illnesses, is remet with joy.

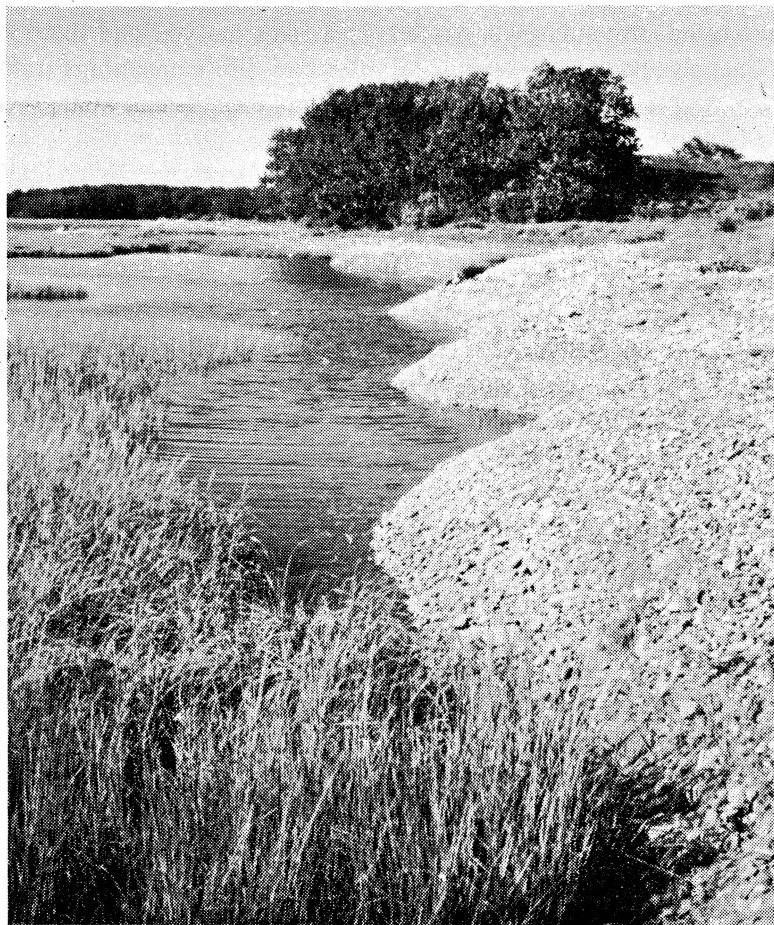
In an *All Things Considered* interview in August 1997, Sherman said, "They [the letters] are her most brilliant prose." I agree. These long letters are

profound. They contain many of the same concerns as the journals: human relationships, passions and betrayals; literature and writer's lives; descriptions of natural scenery; various insecurities about her worth as a writer and as a lover and friend; and political events of the day.

Sarton needn't have been so insecure. She was always generous, in her books and in her daily life. One of her most generous gifts was her deeply felt, lyrical letters, which her painter friend Bill Brown, one of her most frequent correspondents in this volume, says he liked to "savour ... alone, like a wonderful meal." (Even though, in one letter to Brown, Sarton writes humbly, "I am no good at letters.")

Sarton tried to respond to all letters, generally setting aside Sunday morning for this task. She often had hundreds to respond to. During her early and middle years, she wrote almost daily letters to both parents or to one of them. Friends were always terribly important

(Continued on page 12)



Canterbury Tales Books

- Full selection of fiction and non-fiction
- Special orders • Maine books
- Nautical charts, maps and topes

Ask about our bonus book club

Ask About Our FREE Bonus Book Club

OPEN SEVEN DAYS* SUNDAYS 11 AM-5PM YEAR ROUND

52 Main Street • Belfast, Maine 04915

207-338-1171 • Toll Free 888-338-1176

ADVERTISE IN THE FEMINIST TIMES AND REACH A SPECIAL AUDIENCE

OUR RATES ARE:

	1-3 times	2-6 times	7-10 times
Full Page	\$450	\$400	\$350
Spread	700	650	600
Eighth Page	100	75	60
Quarter Page	150	100	85
Half Page	300	200	150
Business Card	45	40	35

More Book Review...

(Continued from page 11.)

for. "We dull our lives by the way we conceive them. We have stopped imagining them with any sort of romance, any fictional flair." We must, he proposes, dare to envision our lives, as if we might all be famous, "in terms of very large ideas such as beauty, mystery and myth." *The Soul's Code* may also be selling well because it offers ways of viewing our children and childrearing that could free both from the simultaneously rigid and promiscuous roles we've slipped into in the second half of the 20th Century. "What is the connection, if any," he asks, using the sort of vocabulary he would have us learn to use about ourselves "between the parental imagination... and the child's acorn? How do the parents imagine the child? What do they see in this little person who has been dropped in their laps; what is it bearing on those frail and bony shoulders, what is it looking for with those eyes? Have the parents a fantasy of an invisible fate in the visible traits displayed every day?" Helen's parents did, therefore she did, and my biography of her will suggest that it made all the difference.

It may help that *The Soul's Code* doesn't leave out the world around us in its effort to find a way for us to explain our selves. "The more I believe my nature comes from my parents, the less open I am to the ruling influences around me. The less the surrounding world is felt to be intimately important to my story." Whether our souls accept the society they are born into, or are born to ignore or change it, "the moment the angel enters a life it enters an environment. We are ecological from day one."

It may help, too, that Hillman's text requires neither reading knowledge nor appreciation of Freudian or Jungian psychologies, current fads in psychotherapy, or the tug of war between them. And doubtless it helps in these times of frantic spiritual questing that the

text treats the soul as if it had weight and took up space and had a job to do.

In a discussion he hopes will "redeem" psychology from causing more damage than it cures, Hillman challenges the popular victim theories, rejects the notion that we are what our parents make us, prisoners of nature and nurture. In fact he challenges the notion that we are prisoners of anything at all, except perhaps outmoded ideas. If we are dysfunctional personally and culturally, it is because our ideas about ourselves, the stories we cast ourselves in, are dysfunctional.

I think this idea of Hillman's has gotten better the more I've wrestled with it, or maybe it's that I've gotten better the more I've wrestled with it. I begin to feel that I have it instead of it having me. Though, like the myths in whose realms he moves comfortably, it's not the sort of idea that can be validated by science, or that even wants to be, it's an idea that can change for the better the way you see yourself and others. My corresponding idea is that, even if life and lives don't work the way Hillman proposes, if you behaved as though they did, as though you were here with a gift and for a purpose which your guardian daimon can help you discern and protect, and if you behaved as if you and you alone could fulfill that purpose, and if you treated your children accordingly... well, it strikes me you and they might live beyond life's meanings rather than beneath them. Is that what psychology's for?

As novelist Nikos Kazantzakis, another lover of myths of personal empowerment, wrote: "Reach what you cannot." In his acorn theory, Hillman proposes we have within our selves all the help we need to succeed. That's a therapeutic idea, for sure.

Ellen LaConte is a free-lance writer and is Helen Nearing's biographer and editor of "Starting Point" newsletter.

More Book Review...

(Continued from page 11.)

to her; she had many and kept in touch. She also believed in responding to her readers' adulation and needs although few samples of these are included in this thick book. Sarton's letters were handwritten in a tiny hand or pounded out, one finger style, on a manual typewriter.

For this first published volume of letters, Sherman, who has also edited *May Sarton: Among the Usual Days*, and the festschrift, *Forward into the Past*, has not chosen only examples that glorify or mythologize the writer. She has been fair-handed and objective, and has included many types of correspondences, not just those that paint Sarton in a favorable light. In these letters, written from age 4 until about the time the author bought her house in Nelson, N.H., we rediscover that Sarton had a temper and many insecurities. We learn that she struggled with her strong passions and with her sexuality. She was bi-sexual for many years and even writes of being picked up by a man. We learn of her extreme emotion for Marie Closset (Jean Dominique) and for Lady Juliette Huxley.

Her view of women's love relationship is quite clear from a 1954 letter to Louise Bogan, with whom she also was in love: "The great difference between men and women is that women cannot separate sex from love and men can. ... The drive which is back of two women who unite in passionate love is therefore, as in any love relationship for a woman, first of all and primarily emotional rather than sexual. Emotion overflows and tries to find a medium of expression." Surely, these letters were one of Sarton's mediums of expressions for her many love affairs.

In the same year she commented to Edith Forbes Kennedy, "[H]ow one longs for steady rhythmical unforced companionship. I do want to marry." I had always known that she had at least one offer, but never that one of her early goals was exactly this union (which, of course, she later achieved with Judith Matlack, who we learn, from these letters, was not a great passion but a giving and patient person). Actually, the lack of attention to Judy is somewhat surprising, although I had known this relationship was not the great romance of Sarton's life, but, rather, her rock.

Her love of cats and flower gardening shows through from an early

age. In 1941, she writes British novelist Winifred Bryher, "We are now ruled implacably by four cats. When we sleep they wish to bounce up and down on the beds, bite our toes, catch flies off our noses etc. When we are wide-awake and would like to play they cannot be moved, but lie exhausted even forgetting sometimes to put in their tongues."

Of course, we learn everything Sarton is reading. The letters read like a "what's valuable to read" list for the '30s, '40s and '50s. A few of the varied authors she enjoys in these years are H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), Marianne Moore, Ruth Pitter, Antoine de St. Exupery and Hermann Rauschning, a German political writer. She had no college education, by choice, and was largely self-taught in and took her pursuit of fine literature seriously. This recommendation of good books follows throughout all her journals.

Finally, the letters are not only about her personal affairs and daily life. They reflect the concerns and people of the early and mid- part of this century, especially during World War II. Sarton volunteered as an instructor for first aid work and sent many care packages to Europe. She writes of meeting or at least seeing dozens of famous people, including Josephine Baker, Brancusi and Robert Frost, and of the deaths of Virginia Woolf and of Roosevelt, the first of which effected her the most strongly.

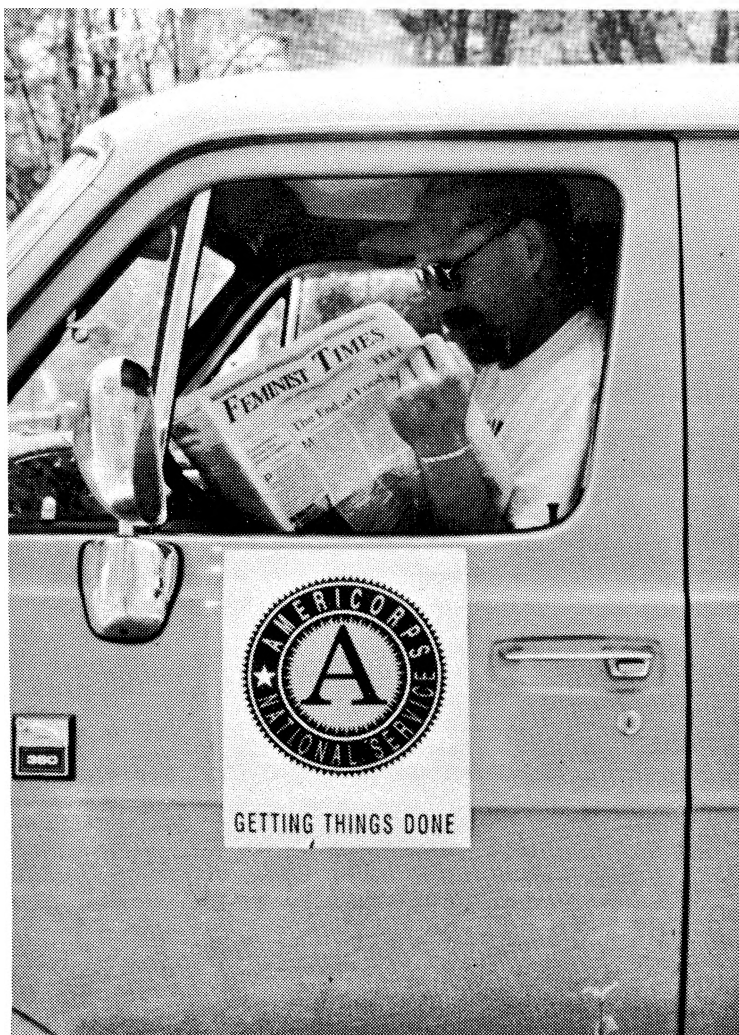
Included in this first volume of letters are black-and-white photos, some seen for the first time, 19 pages of previously unpublished poems (a few in her first language, French), and several letters also in French. In the English letters are also shorter passages in French; these Sherman has translated.

In her essay, "The May Sarton I Have Known," Carolyn Heilbrun, who knew Sarton since 1972, writes, "The May Sarton I have known is an ornery, out-spoken, virtuous, feisty and too-long-ignored woman of courage and a secret knowledge of what matters in life, which she has shared no matter what the price."

In these letters, May Sarton is all these things, to my delight. Their spontaneity and honesty show her to be "fully human." I eagerly await the next volume of letters, which Sherman is now editing.

Deborah Straw is a free-lance writer and lives in Burlington, Vt. She is completing an ecotourism book to the Florida Keys and is a teacher at Community College of Vermont.

There
Are
Those
Who
Know
What
Comes
First



ADVERTISE IN THE *FEMINIST TIMES* AND REACH A SPECIAL AUDIENCE

OUR RATES ARE:

	1-3 times	2-6 times	7-10 times
Full Page	\$450	\$400	\$350
Spread	700	650	600
Eighth Page	100	75	60
Quarter Page	150	100	85
Half Page	300	200	150
Business Card	45	40	35

'Round'n About With Women

This datebook page is dedicated to the support of women in the arts. To be included in this acknowledgement, send announcements, press releases and photos.

Items for this page are due by the 15th of the previous month. Send to Calendar Editor, 309 High St., Belfast ME 04915
207.338.1429
fax: 207.338.9895
e-mail: janders@acadia.net

ON CAMPUS

BATES COLLEGE (FMI 786.6330)

- Benjamin Mays Center: *Art and the Conversion of the Heart*, lecture by Jane Smith Bernhardt as part of the Spiritual Series, 4:30 pm, April 28;
- Olin Arts Center, Concert Hall: *Black Maria Film Festival*; May 2, 8 pm, May 3, 2 pm (FMI 786.6158), admission \$5; May 8, 8 pm concert w/Lawrence Golan, violin, Kurt Kaufman, cello.
- Museum of Art, lower gallery: through May 24, Anne Harris.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE (FMI 725.3743)

- Becker Gallery: *Still Time & Face It!*, through May 31.

LEWISTON-AUBURN COLLEGE (FMI 800.639.2919)

- Atrium Gallery: *Ninth Annual Show* culminates in a May art suction, through May 8.

UNITY COLLEGE (FMI 948.3131; fax 948.5626)

- Student Center: *Earth Day Celebration*, April 18, 9 am.
- Activities Bldg, Room 1B-2B: *La Strada*, 1954 film, April 19, 7 pm.
- SC: Doug Emery, jazz, April 22, 8 pm.
- SC: *Cornfields of New York*, one act play, April 25, 7 pm.
- AB: *Rear Window*, 1954 film, April 26, 7 pm.
- SC: Robert Hoyt, musician, April 29, 8 pm.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE @ PRESQUE ISLE (FMI 768.9611)

- Reed Gallery: *Bonnie Harp*, Canadian watercolorist, through April 17; April 20-May 1, Senior Art Shows.
- Campus Center: Jah Spirit Reggae concert/dance, April 18, 8pm.
- CC: Alexandra Oehler, pianist, May 1, 8pm.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND (FMI 797.7261 Ext. 4375)

- Westbrook College Campus Art Gallery: *Seasons of Change: Maine Women Artists and Nature*, April 17-June 21.

AUGUSTA

- *Faces of Recollection*, Dianne Salfas paintings, through May 29, Moss Gallery of Contemporary Art; 622.6111.

BAR HARBOR

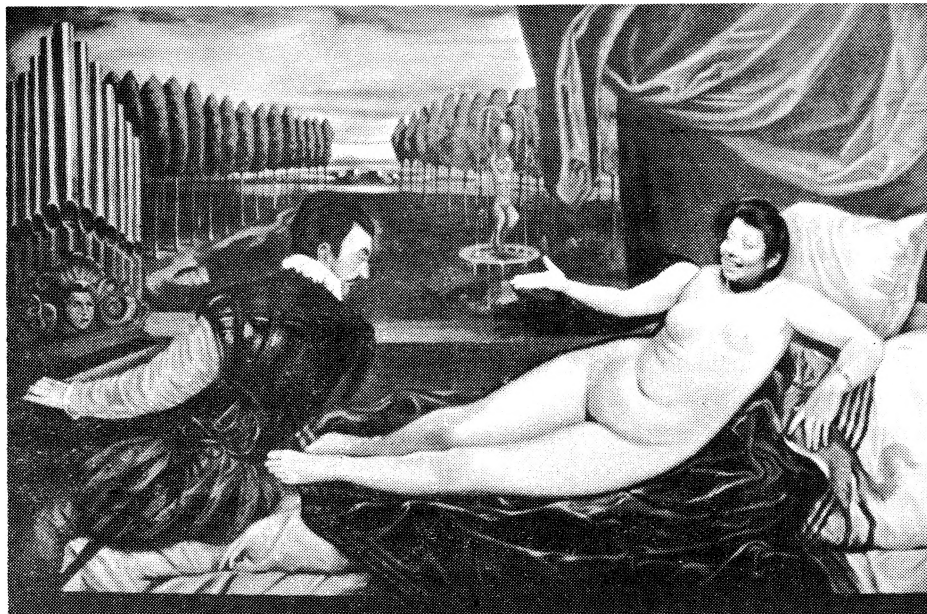
- *Visions of the Cape*, poetry & prints by Polly Cote, Thorndike Library, through April 30; 288.5015.

BATH

- *Life Cycle*, sculpture installation by Tamar Etingen, Chocolate Church Arts Center, through April 25; 442.8455.

BLUE HILL

- Left Bank Bakery & Cafe (FMI 374.2201): April 15, Bill Parsons; April 16, Chris & Meredith Thompson; April 18, The Beatroots; April 19, Annie Gallup; April 22, Erin McKeown; April 23, Jules Shear; April 24, The Boneheads; April 25, Open Stage; April 26, The Alison Brown Quartet; April 29, Planet Pan; April 30, Blues Jam; May 1, Andrew McKnight & Bobbi Lane; May 2, Northern Lights; May 5, Cris Williamson & Tret Fure; May 7, Wild Oats; May 8, The Nudes; May 9, Mindy Jostyn; May 14, The Piners; May 16, Maggi, Pierce & EJ; May 21, Gideon Freudman; May 22, Mike & Suzy Fay; May 23, Gordon Stone Trio; May 29, Maria Sangiolo; May 30, 31, Paul Sullivan Jazz.



THINK THIN... Susan Poulin's head juts out above a classic voluptuous nude body in a scene from *In My Head I'm Thin*, a play written and performed by Poulin and her husband, Gordon Carlisle. The popular musical comedy will play for a one-night benefit performance, 8 p.m. Friday, April 17, at the Oak Street Theatre in Portland, followed by a desert discussion with the actors. Tickets at \$20 for adults and \$15 for students may be reserved (775-5103) or purchased (92 Oak St.). Photo by Andrew Edgar.

Gallery & Framing, through May 1; 779.0809.

HALLOWELL

- Annie Gallup performs songs from her latest CD, *Courage My Love*, Slate's; FMI 622.9575.

LEWISTON

- *Educating Rita*, play by Willy Russell, The Public Theatre, May 8,9,10,14,16,17; 782.3200.
- *The Beauty of Place*, Creative Photographic Arts Center, Bates Mill Complex; through May 9; 800.691.1369.

- *Journeys Over Water*, retrospective show, paintings by Stephen Etnier, Museum of Art, through June 7; 775.6148.

RAYMOND

- April show @ Hole in the Wall includes handmade paper art, baskets, ceramics, jewelry, through May 19, 655.4952.

ROCKPORT

- *Fred Woell Retrospective*; John Bisbee Sculpture; Peregrine Press group show; Maine Coast Artists, May 2-June 6; 236.2875.

TREVETT

- *Of Fish and Fishing*, contemporary & antique show of marine life, Mathias Fine Art, Barter's Island; through May 2; 633.7404.

YORK

- *Bali and Beyond*, paintings by Jsacoba Remick, Visitors Center, through April 30; 363.4422.



SAY AAH!... Ann Foskett and Patricia Doan in a scene from Susan Sontag's *Alice in Bed* which plays April 17-May 9 at the Oak Street Theatre in Portland. Photo by George Glum.

CAMDEN

- *Words & Images, An Exhibition of Poetry & Art*, Public Library, through May 11; 236.3440.

ELLSWORTH

- *Barns, Beaches, Boats and Brooks*, watercolors by Robert Calhoun, public library, through April 30; 667.6363.

FARMINGTON

- *Spring Thaw* exhibit, Classic

ORONO

- Toshi Reagon with Big Lovely in concert, Maine Center for the Arts, benefit for Spruce Run, April 18; 581.1755.

PORTLAND

- *Alice in Bed*, play by Susan Sontag, directed by Kym Dakin, Oak Street Theatre, April 17-May 9 (preview, April 17; press opening, April 18; pay what you can, April 19); 775.510.

STRUMMING TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER... In celebration of her latest album, *Courage My Love*, Annie Gallup performs in her imitable style of "fusing spoken words and poetry with sharp, catchy melodies" at Left Bank, April 19 and Slate's, April 27.





Haiti

In 1986, Joseph Paolino & Sons contracted with the city of Philadelphia to dispose of 15,000 tons of incinerator ash containing the toxic chemicals lead, cadmium, arsenic, mercury, dioxin and benzene. Paolino contracted to a Bahamian shipping company to transport this ash on the ship the *Khian Sea*. It left Philadelphia with the waste in August, 1986 and traveled the Caribbean Sea for 14 months before promoting this ash as fertilizer to the Haitian government and receiving permission to deliver the waste to Gonaives and a fictitious company. An estimated 4,000 tons of ash was unloaded in an open heap on the earthen wharf in Gonaives, less than five feet above sea level before Haitian authorities learned the true nature of this ash and ordered the ship's captain to reload it and leave immediately. This ship left in the night, eventually dumping the remaining 11,000 tons of waste in the Indian Ocean.

Outrage over this incident inspired the Basel Convention which bans the export of hazardous waste from industrial countries to developing countries. It was signed by 115 nations including the U.S., but it has never been ratified by Congress.

Much of the ash on the wharf was blown in the sea; the rest removed to an open, unlined cinder block containment area and covered with dirt. However it is leaching into the soil and groundwater and ultimately the Caribbean Sea.

Although the city of Philadelphia refused payment to Paolino & Sons at the time of the illegal dumping, they are now refusing to remove the waste from Haiti. The government of Haiti insists the waste be removed by Philadelphia and/or the U.S. Government.

In March, Witness for Peace, a national non-profit organization which seeks to change U.S. policies which contribute to poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean sent a delegation to Haiti to interview representatives from community organizations and exploitation of factory workers and to Haitians protesting the ash dumping in Gonaive. Victoria Szatkowski, of Portland, was one of ten representatives from North America in the Witness for Peace delegation to Haiti.

Victoria Szatkowski will provide Feminist Times of updates on this and other issues in Haiti.



Zimbabwe

An unremarkable four-bedroom house in a middle-class Harare suburb has become a secret destination for hundreds of Zimbabwean women fleeing domestic and sexual abuse. Established by the Musasa Project, a women's organization working to fight gender violence, the shelter has provided refuge to more than 300 women since 1996. It is the first women's shelter ever in Zimbabwe, a place for women to consider options with the help of trained counselors and legal advisors during a two-month stay.

According to a 1994 World Bank study, more than 9 million years of life are lost annually world-wide as a result of violence against women. In Zimbabwe, a recent survey by Musasa and Women in Law and Development in Africa found that 59 percent of 246 murdered women were killed by their partners.

Musasa wants the government to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape. It uses town meetings, theater and television documentaries to raise awareness. It has won the backing of Eddison Zvobgo, former cabinet minister and legal expert who says that if stealing cattle is a punishable offense, so if domestic abuse.



Business Directory

Don't Miss Out! Place Your Ad Today

DISTRIBUTE
THE FEMINIST
TIMES
IN YOUR AREA

DUCK COVE RETREAT
for Women
MOUNT DESERT ISLAND
A non-profit organization

**A Chance for Women
to Come Together in a Nurturing Setting**

Open Almost Year Round on
Mount Desert Island
adjacent to **Acadia National Park**, Bar Harbor

Very reasonable rates: **\$15 per night** in the barn or **\$10 per tent**
Scholarships Available

For dates and reservations, please call:
Susan Lauchlan at 207-338-1973 or
Sandra Daltch at 617-876-0196



LU BAUER, CPA
Money Counselor • Human Being

Supportive
Business Consulting

Recordkeeping systems
Initial business setup
Tax planning strategies
Tax filing requirements
Dealing with the IRS

207-892-6652
PO Box 457
Windham, Maine 04062

Advertising... Using Your
Dollars Wisely

"... targeted monthly publications are very successful in reaching certain kinds of selected audiences. They have a long shelf life; are often read for at least a month and are passed along from one reader to another increasing its reach."

Tara Kennedy
Media Consultant
Augusta

Diane Keubler, LCSW

Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual
Transgender
Awareness

Belfast Office
338-0184

Brief & Long Term
Psychotherapy

COMMUNITY CHIROPRACTIC



Chiropractic... Health for the Whole Family

Dr. Meg Peterson
Chiropractic Physician
207/338-6463

29 Washington Street
Belfast, ME 04915

GLORIA YOUNG, LCSW
Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist

HYPNOTHERAPY

Trauma • Weight & Smoking • Self Esteem
Performance Enhancement
Pain & Phobia Control

330 E. Main
Searsport, Maine 04474
548-6582

143 High Street
Belfast, Maine 04415
338-6544

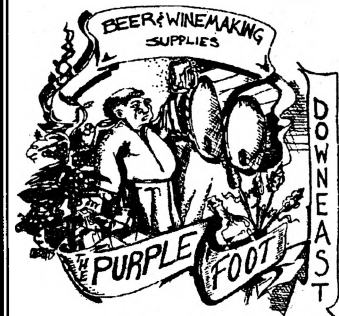
AZURE DRAGONFLY



Distinctive Native American,
New Age & Maine-Made Jewelry
Crafts • Books • Cards
Cassettes & CDs • Zuni Fetishes
Select Crystals & Gemstones



10% OFF PRE-ORDERS OF BOOKS, MUSIC & SIDELINES
High Street, Belfast • Across from Colonial Theatre • 338-6100



**PURPLE FOOT
DOWNEAST INC**

P O Box 116
Waldoboro, Maine
207-832-6286

April - May 1998

FEMINIST TIMES

Network

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

■ Each year, government at every level hands out hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in the form of corporate tax breaks and subsidies. In fact, government spends more on corporate welfare than it does on aid for the poor. Senat Majority Leader Chellie Pingree has introduced a bill, L.D. 2243 the **Corporate Accountability Act** to improve the rate of return on large taxpayer investments by requiring more disclosure and public participation in the subsidy application process; insisting that recipients receiving aid in excess of \$250,000 in one year or over \$2.5 million in a ten-year period follow through on jobs promised and comply with labor agreements establishing a prevailing wage and health and pension benefits; authorizing state and local governments to recapture their investments; and creating a public commission to oversee the corporate subsidy process.

■ The United States, along with the world's richest industrialized countries, is negotiating an international treaty that will give a "bill of rights" to big corporations. The **Multilateral Agreement on Investments (MAI)** would eliminate restrictions on international investments; prevent governments from instituting policies aimed at strengthening local economies; and allow multinational corporations to sue governments if they establish new worker protections, public-safety regulations, or measures protecting the environment. Call Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at 202/647-6575 and urge her to withdraw from MAI negotiations. We don't need to grant more rights to big corporations.

■ **New Mothers' Breastfeeding Promotion and Protection Act**, a bill introduced in Congress last week, would guarantee the right of working women to breast-feed and grant them unpaid breaks of up to an hour a day to express milk during their child's first year. It would also offer tax credits for employers who set up nursing stations, provide breast pumps, or hire lactation consultants. The bill marks the culmination of a recent wave of legislation in states and localities aimed at countering bias against breast-feeding in the United States. It comes on the heels of new pediatric guidelines, announced in December, that urge women to nurse their babies for a full year.

World Federalist Association -- Maine Chapter
PO Box 397
Waldoboro, ME 04572
832-6863

WFA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to ensure peace, economic progress, environmental protection and human rights through world law and global structures such as a strengthened United Nations. 10/97

Maine NOW (National Organization for Women)
PO Box 4012
Portland, ME 04101
797-8508

The largest feminist grassroots organization in Maine. Active in securing increased women's rights: reproductive freedom, lesbian/gay rights, ERA, economic justice and eliminating racism. Local chapters in Bangor, Brunswick, Farmington, Kennebec Valley and Portland. 7/97

LET CUBA LIVE
PO Box 245
Brunswick, ME 04011
725-1330

We work to normalize US relations with Cuba, by direct action, education and legislative efforts. We also promote discussion of the accomplishments and problems of the Cuban Revolution. 7/97

List your organization in the Network. Send \$30 and a 30-word description to *Feminist Times*, 309 High St., Belfast, ME 04915.

MAINE CENTERS FOR WOMEN, WORK AND COMMUNITY
46 University Drive
Augusta, ME 04330-9410
621-3430

MCWWC provides statewide community based entrepreneurship training and workforce development services to displaced homemakers, single parents and other workers in transition. 10/97

Maine Tradeswomen Network
P.O. Box 10813
Portland, ME 04104
797-4801

A bond of tradeswomen finding strength, education and support from each other. Our goal is to share our knowledge and encourage other women to enter the non-traditional work force. 6/97

Labor Party
PO Box 1812
Portland, ME 04104
780-1247
<http://www.portlandpages.com/laborparty>

Fighting for a living wage for the work that you do! The Labor party is a political party that exists to build a powerful movement around a new agenda for working-class people. 2/98

Amnesty International
AIUSA Group 169
PO Box 203
Bath, ME 04530
832-6863

An independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair & prompt trials for political prisoners, and an end to torture and executions.

Workshops, lectures, classes, etc.

April 18: ■ Children's Book Workshop, led by Lisa Jahn-Clough, 10-3, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance (MWPA) office, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick; FMI 729-6333. ■ "Health in Our Hands" conference, sponsored by the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 8:30-3:30, Donald P. Corbett business bldg, UMaine; FMI 947-5337. ■ Spiritual Readings by John Amoroso, Back Door to the Moon, 5 Dunn St., Oakland, 10-6; FMI 465-7005. ■ Linda Tatelbaum, author of *Carrying Water as a Way of Life: A Homesteader's History*, talks about writing and self-publishing, as part of the Maine Readers' Festival, sponsored by *Maine Times*, Harlow Gallery, Hallowell, 1-2:30; FMI 785-4634.

April 21: ■ Lost Spirituality of Christianity w/James Bean (second class April 28), 6-8, Back Door to the Moon (see address and FMI above).

April 22: ■ *No One Can Deny Us: Black Women Activists Put South African Women on the Agenda*, lecture by Leslie Hill, 12:15,

Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, UMaine; FMI 581-3756.

April 25: ■ H.O.P.E. Festival, 10-5, Brewer Auditorium, sponsored by the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, great performers, speakers, children's programs and activities, admission free; FMI 942-9343. ■ Fiction Writing Workshop on Dialogue w/Monica Wood, 10-3, Bangor Public Library; FMI 729-6333. ■ Poetry Critiquing Workshop w/Jan Bailey, 10-3, Rockland Public Library; FMI 729-6333. ■ Informal chat and booksigning w/Linda Tatelbaum, author of *Carrying Water as a Way of Life: A Homesteader's History*, 1-3, Fertile Mind Bookshop, 13 Main St., Belfast; FMI 785-4634.

April 28: ■ "The Education and Status of Women at the University of Maine: 1972, 1987 and Today," presentation by members and observers of two task forces on educational equity and the President's Council on Women at UMaine, 12:15, Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, UMaine; FMI 581-3756.

April 29: ■ (To May 1) Maine International Women's Business Conference, Augusta Civic Center, FMI and registration form, 737-2121 or fax, 737-2122.

May 2: ■ Exploring Healthy Buildings: Indoor Environment and Your Health, 9-1, First Congregational Church, Camden; FMI 594-6889. ■ 2nd annual "Utterly Unbelievable" Benefit Unitarian Universalist Auction, Belfast Area High School, 6 (preview & silent auction), 7 (general auction), admission free; FMI 338-1146 or 338-4408.

May 4: ■ Six-Week Screenwriting Course, 6:30-8:30, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance office (see April 18 FMI and address).

May 7: ■ (Through June 11) Nonfiction Writing Workshop w/John Cole, 7-9, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance office (see April 18 FMI and address).

May 9: ■ "Alive & Kicking: Life After Feb. 10; A Workshop on Local Organizing" sponsored by Common Circle for Human Rights, 9:30-3:30, Pugh Center, Colby College Campus, Waterville; FMI

338-1704 or 338-5889. ■ Lesbian Health Project, low-cost woman-positive, lesbian-centered health clinic, 9-noon, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Bangor; FMI 947-5337.

May 14: ■ Maine Women's Lobby 20th Anniversary Celebration, Radisson Hotel, Portland; FMI 622-0851, fax 621-2551, e-mail MWomenL@aol.com.

May 22-24: ■ Memorial Weekend Movement Retreat, Belfast Dance Studio, 109 High St., Belfast; FMI & registration, 338-5380, e-mail belfastdancestudio@acadia.net.

June 18-21: ■ "American Women Nature Writers: An Interdisciplinary Conference," Westbrook College Campus, UNew England, Portland; FMI 797-7261.

June 27: ■ Molly Ivins, funniest political commentator in America (and Texas), presented by act III, Hauck Auditorium, UMaine, to benefit H.O.M.E., noon-7; FMI 469-7961.

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY

In Other Words...

Pornography -- What Can We Do?

by Jory Squibb

Ever since I wrote a recent article about my first encounter with Internet pornography, people have stopped me on the street to talk about solutions.

Before presenting my own ideas, let me warn you of my prejudices. I am wary of censorship. As a writer, I benefit every day from freedom of the press. I am wary of government regulation. This may come from the many setbacks to my early and ongoing idealism. Or maybe brain cells age this way. Also, I'm not against pornography, or even pornography on the internet. Like drinking, candy or snowmobiles, it's one of the diverse set of choices which make up our vibrant culture. Americans moralize about matters of taste. Let's not.

The problem is more limited: A 12-year-old can click a computer mouse a few times and view a scene which is age-inappropriate. I am committed as a parent to giving children a safe and innocent space to grow. Here is my two-part solution: The first part is to age-limit the access to areas of the internet. Young users are usually unsupervised and are often electronic geniuses. Any method we use will have many failures, but I suggest that we plunge ahead and make the barriers a little higher. Having a drinking or smoking age is a deterrent, a first approximation of safety, but not a guarantee. By labeling pornography "adult," we do the same.

The second part is more complex. Why are we worried about young pornography watchers? My own uneasiness comes from seeing -- and remembering! -- how slowly, if at all, we men become mature and responsible in our sensual natures. I wish our passages from age 11 to 22 could more consistently lead us to a loving, nonviolent, give-and-take partnership. Instead, so many of us linger on as predatory reptiles!

Pornography is a part of that failure to mature. Begun as a steady diet in younger years, it can desensitize us, cripple our true emotions and invite us to maintain our adolescent obsessions. When such a young person is later turned loose on the world with some adult skills, the result can be a menace.

Do I exaggerate? Try this: Ask a woman friend if she's ever had a rape or near-rape experience, and if so, can she tell you about it. I think you'll come to agree: Male sexual immaturity brings a vast amount of suffering.

So pornography is a kind of sex education. It responds to the intense curiosity of youth, but can begin a social sidetrack. The problem is not only the sidetrack, but the educational vacuum that exists around it. That's where the second solution lies.

Raising teens is like raising toddlers. They resist our guidance mightily, but need it mightily. Their behaviors are off-putting, designed to wear out our earlier intrusiveness. They gain space, a chance to

figure things out without a parent too close. Yet I find that, behind the independence, they are still hungry for parenting, for leadership, even for long talks when the time is right -- in short for a strong relationship.

We counter pornography by building this relationship and the teaching and modeling which naturally comes from it. Our sons especially need a chivalrous way of relating: respectful, gentle, protective. Protective? Can you feel how out-of-step that is with contemporary values? Yet protecting is a deeply programmed part of being a man. Our nature yearns for it in the lonely plains of enforced sameness.

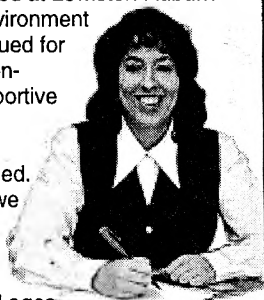
So my second solution is an invitation to the dance: Overcome the ego-bruises of parenting. Slowly, humbly get to know that young person in our midst -- the music, the costumes, the friends, the friends' parents. Strengthen or begin common interests. I'm amazed to find my 14-year-old is a Doors fan!

Dare to be close. Dare to teach, even to teach values. There may be no immediate resonance, but later we may find that a surprising amount of rejected values have taken root. And though our culture is youth-intoxicated, perhaps we can find again the ancient self-confidence of age. Our virtue is simple: We've clung to this spinning planet a little longer.

Jory Squibb is a father and writer who lives in Camden.

Lewiston-Auburn College Prepared Me for the Future.

Ask Lewiston's Mayor Kaileigh Tara. As a community economic developer for Coastal Enterprises, Kaileigh used her degree to help provide greater job opportunities for area residents. In the late '80s, Kaileigh enrolled at Lewiston-Auburn College and excelled in an environment where older students were valued for their life experiences. "Lewiston-Auburn College was very supportive of the needs of nontraditional students and that made all the difference for me," she explained. At Lewiston-Auburn College, we offer programs designed to meet the needs of students at various stages of their academic lives. Students of all ages share their views and experiences in our classrooms, as well as in the community. Find out how we can prepare you for the future.



University of Southern Maine
Lewiston-Auburn College
Call us at (207) 753-6500.

<http://www.usm.maine.edu/~lac>

- Loving our bodies with
* comforting natural fiber clothing
- Singing our songs with
* jewelry & colorful adornments
- Writing our stories on
* journals, cards & stationery
(recycled, of course)
- Dancing our spirits with
* incense, bells, music & candles



COYOTE MOON

The boutique that speaks to the heart

54 Main Street • Belfast, ME • 207-338-5659



MEMORIAL WEEKEND Movement Retreat May 22,23,24

Early Registration*
receives 10% discount
Call 338-5380

*Registration & 50%
deposit by April 13th

**Barbara Fraser
Richard Gonzalez
& other Guest Artists**

*Modern, Afro-Caribbean
Stretch n' Relax
Funk/ Hip Hop,
STEP/ Lo 'n Tone*

The Belfast Dance Studio offers
a wide variety of movement
classes & workshops

109 High Street, Belfast Maine

Now that you've got the time...



Get the TIMES.

*the Feminist Times
with all the modern conveniences...
news, information and profiles.*

SUBSCRIBE

\$15 - 1 year \$25 - 2 years \$50 - 5 years
(\$1000 and we're yours for life)

WRITE

309 High St. • Belfast • ME 04915

